

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support a plan to create a public transportation system on Saipan?

Yes	174
No	20
Undecided	2
No opinion	5

Sunday, February 24, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL



New Monday section focuses on tourism in the CNMI: Biba Marianas!

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South Korea's new president vows to soften Seoul's approach to North Korea.

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'911 call key to ID of Crisostomo'



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI court marshals escort Joseph Acosta Crisostomo after Friday's hearing in Superior Court on charges for the murder of bartender Emerita Romero in February 2012.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police served Friday an arrest warrant on ex-convict Joseph Acosta Crisostomo for the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Relata Romero in February 2012.

Police brought the 39-year-old Crisostomo to the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division Office in Susupe

where he was served at 11:25am with the arrest warrant on charges of first-degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the

» Ex-convict arrested for February 2012 murder of Romero

first degree, robbery, theft, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Shortly after Crisostomo's arrest, Attorney General Joey San Nicolas held a news briefing at the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division to announce the development of their year-long investigation that led to the filing of charges against the suspect, who has an extensive rap sheet.

Crisostomo has been detained due to

TIMELINE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

■ **Feb. 5, 2012:** At about 3am Emerita "Emie" Romero was last seen by her co-worker boarding a tinted car near her residence in Garapan. Shortly later, Romero was heard crying in a 911 call. At 5:49pm, Scott Dotino, owner of Godfather's Bar, reported to DPS that Romero was missing.

■ **Feb. 7, 2012:** DPS launched a search for Romero. Co-workers, relatives, and friends joined the search. At 2:24pm, FBI special agents Joe

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a previous arrest on illegal drug charges. San Nicolas said the filing of charges against Crisostomo is welcome news to Romero's family and friends, and the community in general.

San Nicolas praised the joint efforts by the Department of Public Safety, OAG, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal,

See 911 on Page 4

Inos halts hiring, salary changes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked all departments and agencies on Friday to stop all hiring and salary increases "until further notice," shortly after the abrupt yet smooth transition following Wednesday's resignation of Benigno R. Fitial as governor. Officials said yesterday that the directive

is needed for financial accountability as well as political concerns.

"Effective immediately, all personnel actions including, but not limited to, change in salary compensation and re-allocations, shall be frozen until further notice," Inos said in his first directive as

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MORE INSIDE

■ Senate reorganizes, Inos to fill vacancy within 30 days.

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■ 300-plus walkers remember JP Pangelinan in walk.

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■ US govt to air-drop toxic mice on Guam snakes.

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MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Saipan International School team pose with their coach Marifi Doculan-Ayeras after being named champions in this year's Academic Challenge Bowl competition for middle schools on Saturday at Saipan Southern High School Café.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Saipan International School romped off with the top prize at the 11th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl for middle schools on Saturday, defeating other

teams from private and public schools during the competition at Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Café.

A total of six schools entered five-member teams for the competition. SIS got the highest points over finalists Mount Carmel School and Hopwood

Junior High School, which placed second and third, respectively.

The champion team was composed of 8th graders Cerinn Hwang, Emily Jones, Stephanie Lee, Liza Atalig, and sixth grader Eric Kiser, the youngest and

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Biba Marianas!



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

"I Want to Go!" Lotte JTB Promotion

To increase awareness of **Saipan** and **Tinian** and increase sales volume of packages, the **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** began a travel trade promotion to **Lotte JTB** employees in January 2013. **Lotte Group** consists of 60 business units employing 60,000 people in industries including IT, construction, publishing, entertainment, and more.



The "I Want to go to Saipan!" campaign offers packages to **Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino**, **Pacific Islands Club Saipan**, **Saipan World Resort**, **Hyatt Regency Saipan**, **Aqua Resort Club**, **Hafadai Beach Hotel**, and **Mariana Resort**.

The promotion continues on the Lotte JTB website through March 2013. 100 folding backpacks, Marianas **Guidebooks**, and island maps are also being provided by the MVA as part of the promotion.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Tinian: The CNMI's 'hottest' island



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Tourists gobble down a hamburger during the first ever Pikalicious burger eating contest, one of the many activities during the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival held at Kammer Beach on Feb. 16 to 17.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Tinian prides itself as the "hottest" island in the Northern Marianas, particularly in February when the island packs a lot of heat for the Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

Established in 2005, the festival is the biggest community

event on Tinian and puts under the spotlight the island's very own *donni sali*, a small but highly potent pepper.

Donni sali, which grows abundantly throughout the jungles of Tinian, has been the centerpiece of the festival that has drawn in thousands of visitors from the neighboring islands of Saipan, Rota, and Guam, as

well as tourists from the U.S. mainland, China, Korea, Japan, and Russia.

This particular hot pepper has been a major source of income for many Tinian residents over the years. Many businesses have been founded to sell *donni sali*-based products such as hot pepper paste and hot pepper powder.

A lot of these products are made available to guests during the Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. This year's event, held during the President's Day weekend last Feb. 16 to 17, saw its biggest crowd to date, according to organizers.

Previously conducted at Tachogna Beach, a short walking distance from the island's biggest hotel, the Tinian Dynas-

ty Hotel & Casino, the two-day festival was moved this year to the more spacious Kammer Beach grounds.

Each year, festival goers visit the numerous booths that sell food items and other types of merchandise, as well as a lineup of activities inspired by Tinian's most popular product.

Perhaps the most anticipated among these activities is the *donni sali* eating challenge for males and females. Hot pepper fanatics brave enough to sign up as contestants munch on as many of the fiery pepper as they can within a time limit. Most challengers end up in tears and thirsting for water, soda, milk, ice cream, or anything else that can cool down the burning sensation in their mouths.

Then there's the Estofao cooking contest, which features amateur and professional cooks on island in a test of culinary skills when preparing a favorite local dish using *donni sali* as an ingredient.

For the first time this year, local restaurant JC Café sponsored the Pikalicious burger eating contest, wherein participants were asked to devour an extremely spicy but scrumptious burger carefully prepared with a sauce made of *donni sali*.

Make sure to include in your visit to the Northern Marianas a trip to its "hottest" island, located southwest of Saipan. Travel time from Saipan to Tinian is only 10 minutes and is accessible via small aircrafts operated by Star Marianas and Freedom Air.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
The island of Tinian is touted as the "hottest" island in the CNMI thanks to *donni sali*, the small but highly potent hot pepper that grows abundantly on the island and is a source of income for many residents.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Tina San Nicolas, winner of the hot pepper eating contest in the female category, raises her arm after successfully defending her title in this year's festival.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Two visitors who joined the hot pepper eating contest at the two-day festival finish a cup of ice cream to stave off the burning sensation on their taste buds.

Local

HS seniors with expired CW-2 may stay while waiting for parole

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Korean students enrolled in public high schools who are graduating this year but have expiring CW-2 visas will be allowed to remain on island provided they have filed a request for humanitarian parole with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown Blackburn gave this assurance to members of the Korean Community of Saipan during a two-hour meeting Friday night at the Korean Community Center in San Antonio.

The meeting was called after the association was alerted by members that many seniors may not be able to finish their studies and attend their graduation in June following the expiration of their CW-2 visas after turning 18 years old.

Brown Blackburn, who declined to be interviewed after the meeting, assured parents of affected seniors that her office will continue to assist affected students but pointed out that she's "taking responsibility" only for those seniors who have pending requests for humanitarian parole with USCIS.

For other Korean students (freshmen, sophomore, and ju-



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Marianas Baptist Academy student Eunice Park addresses the crowd during Friday night's meeting at the Korean Community Center in San Antonio. Park was among those students who have concerns on expiring CW-2 visas that could affect their studies on island.

niors in public schools), Brown Blackburn recommended that they transfer to private schools that accept student visas, or F-1, to avoid a similar problem.

She described the processing at USCIS as "very, very slow," thereby hampering an immediate response to applications for humanitarian parole.

Brown Blackburn disclosed that she is directly communicating with USCIS Honolulu district director David Gulick on the issue about Korean students.

Early Friday morning, Korean senior James Ko flew to

Korea after getting no response from his parole request. Ko had an expired CW-2 visa and was given only 10 days to stay in the CNMI. Afraid that this may affect his record and hamper his plans to go to the U.S. mainland and continue his studies abroad, Ko decided to leave the island and just take his high school courses online until graduation.

Last Friday, Ko's mother became emotional upon hearing that her son would have been able to stay on island until graduation because he has a pending parole request. The mother told

Saipan Tribune that the family decided to go ahead with Ko's departure after they failed to meet with Brown Blackburn when they went to her office to seek for help. "We were informed that she's very busy," the mother said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Ko is a member of the popular Manta Ray Band that flew to the London Olympics last year. He was interviewed at the U.S. Embassy in London where he was given a CW-2 visa with a February 2012 expiration date. Compared to other Korean students who had their CW-2 interview at the U.S. Embassy in Korea, the expiration of their visas coincides with the expiration of their parents' CW visa.

Saipan Tribune learned that Ko's parents tried to obtain an F1 visa for him but by the time Ko came back from London, the semester had already began and they couldn't find a private school that would accept him, according to the mother.

"My son had to leave Saipan [last Friday] to avoid becoming an illegal alien. If he were given only a few more months [in his CW-2], he'd have graduated with no problem and gone on to the U.S. for college education with an F1 status," said the mother.

She admitted that they have yet to identify plans on how their son can return. Ko's family

has been on Saipan for 10 years with legal status. She said these changes in the immigration system caused their family both economic and mental stresses.

Meantime, attorney Mun Su Park, who attended the meeting, described the humanitarian parole as "very discretionary."

He's elated by the assurance that graduating Korean students can still stay but he cannot assure anything on James Ko's case.

Relieved

Eighteen-year-old Eunice Park said Friday that she is now a bit relieved after getting confirming from Brown Blackburn that her stay on Saipan remains "lawful."

Park is a holder of a CW-2

visa and a senior at Marianas Baptist Academy. She plans to fly to Korea in summer to apply for an F1 visa to continue her studies on island. Park is, however, concerned about the situation of her fellow students in public schools who may find it difficult to move to private schools due to associated costs, credit problems, and other issues.

"I think these immigration

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issues don't care about senior students because what we're getting are different answers to questions. For me, this issue about students is a serious case that the USCIS should consider because it's about our future," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMC student Su Jin Jeon, who also attended Friday's meeting, said this is "a really serious matter and I want to help my brother and other affected students in public high schools. All we want is to allow them to graduate this year and so they can leave the island peacefully. We want to make sure that this immigration issue won't affect their plans in the future when they decide to study in the States," she said.

Her brother has a pending parole request filed with USCIS last Jan. 7.

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INOS**From Page 1**

governor.

Andrew Orsini, executive director of the Civil Service Commission, believes the new governor had to issue the directive to help cushion the impact of possible federal funding cuts to the CNMI over the so-called "sequestration" as early as March 1.

Sequestration is a series of automatic, across-the-board cuts to U.S. government agencies totaling \$1.2 trillion over 10 years.

"I would think that is tied in to possible funding cuts from the federal government, so that directive has to be enforced and supported," Orsini said in a phone interview yesterday.

Inos addressed the Feb. 22 directive to all departments and agencies, and furnished a copy to Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and the Civil Service Commission.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) said it is "appropriate" that the governor issues the "hiring freeze" directive, considering the "budget outlook and measures in the House" designed to help the NMI Retirement Fund, among

911**From Page 1**

who will prosecute the case, disclosed that Crisostomo was identified due a combination of things such as a tip received by a detective, physical evidence, and phone records analysis. However, it was Romero's 911 call that played a key role in the investigation, she added.

Neal said that based on the investigation, Romero did not know Crisostomo. Investigators learned that the victim called a taxi and mistakenly got into a rental car being driven by Crisostomo.

"We have credible evidence," the prosecutor stressed.

Neal said they included the robbery charge because the victim's cell phone was not recovered.

Priority

DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero said the investigation into the Romero murder case has been a priority at the department and that he is grateful to DPS investigators, the AG Investigative Unit, and the FBI for their efforts.

Also present at the briefing were FBI special agent Haejun Park, detectives, and Romero's brother Eduardo Relata and sister Estrellita "Lhet" Relata.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued the arrest warrant and set no bail.

Crisostomo was later taken Friday afternoon before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for his initial court appearance. Camacho retained no bail. Preliminary hearing will be on Feb. 26 at 1:30pm. Arraignment will be on March 4 at 9am.

Acting chief public defender Douglas Hartig appeared as counsel for the defendant only for that hearing. He said their office may have a conflict of interest as they are representing a possible witness in the case.

Phone call

Police detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that Godfather's Bar co-owner Scott Dottino had reported on Feb. 5, 2012, at 5:49pm, that one of

other things.

House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) said yesterday the directive is "kind of interesting," considering that "it is technically the same administration."

"However, we must respect the new governor and allow him to evaluate his departments and agencies. I do hope that the directive will be short-lived because I am certain that there are many pending positions that need to be filled and reassessed. Today, we still face the same challenges and must be able to move forward toward a common goal," Camacho said.

Inos meeting with lawmakers

The new governor will also be meeting this week with the members of the 18th Legislature.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and newly installed Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) separately said yesterday there's no specific date given yet but the meeting will take place this week.

"I believe the agenda is about moving forward, about the measures that need to be passed," Deleon Guerrero said.

The House minority leader also said

he will be in this meeting but he, along with other lawmakers, has yet to know when and where that meeting will be.

White House, Interior invitation

Outgoing U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew invited the new governor and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to join the 2013 meeting of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 26.

Sablan said the annual IGIA meeting is "important because it gives the insular areas, including our Commonwealth, the opportunity to make presentations and/or briefs identifying specific areas of concern and interest to the Northern Mariana Islands."

The delegate earlier confirmed his attendance at the meeting. Inos is unable to attend and has asked Sablan to convey his apologies for his absence, the delegate said.

"It is for this reason that I cannot delay my return to Washington, D.C. and it is for this reason that I could not join Commonwealth officials at their meeting," added Sablan, who is also supposed to meet with Inos and lawmakers this week.

his bartenders, Romero, was missing.

Dotino indicated that Romero was

supposed to work at 5pm but did not

show up. The employer said it was very

unusual as Romero had not responded

to his repeated calls on her cell phone.

Police investigation showed that the

then 37-year-old Romero was last seen

alive by a co-worker getting aboard a

green or blue colored car along Chichirica Avenue sometime past 2:40am.

At about 3am that same day, DPS dispatch received an emergency call from Romero's cell phone. The dispatcher could hear a woman in the background. The woman, later identified as Romero, was crying but not responding to the dispatcher. A male's voice could also be heard in the background. The call lasted about a minute.

The dispatcher overheard the woman crying and begging, "Please let me go. My neck hurts." The man calmly spoke, "Relax. Relax. I'm gonna take you home."

The man then asked Romero's name and she replied, "Emie" (her nickname).

The man repeatedly stated he was going to take her home. The dispatcher then transferred the call to police officer Sandy Hambros, who answered and monitored the call from thereon.

Hambros indicated that when he began monitoring the call, Romero was begging for help and gave the location "Marianas Resort."

A static sound followed and the call was cut off. At one point Romero was overheard asking the man to wait so she could pick up her pants.

Hambros and two other police officers responded, but failed to find any disturbance or person within Marianas Resort.

Body found

On Feb. 7, 2012, at 2:24pm, FBI special agents reported to DPS that they have located the lifeless body of a woman at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in As Matusi.

FBI special agent Joe Author stated that he and special agent Park found the corpse inside a small room that was possibly a restroom.

Manacop said that Park escorted him to the location where he saw the fe-

SIS**From Page 1**

only male member. The group's coaches were Marifi Doculan-Ayeras and Michael Gardner.

According to Doculan-Ayeras, this was the first time for SIS to bag the championship. Despite having only a week to prepare, the team's solid educational foundation helped in their success, she added.

"Elated! Even the parents knew how they worked hard...and we're very proud!" Doculan-Ayeras told *Saipan Tribune* after the awarding rites.

The SSHS chapter of the National Honor Society hosted the annual Academic Challenge Bowl for the junior high school division.

The competition featured 140 questions dealing with subjects such as math, science, computer, art, English, social studies, current events, and physical education. Seventy of the questions were classified as easy; 35 were of medium category; and 35 questions were considered hard.

Other participating team in this year's contest were Grace Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Chacha

Oceanview Junior High School.

Cerinn Hwang, who has been joining the academic challenge since her fourth grade, felt very accomplished after receiving the championship award. "It really feels good to win," she said.

Eric Kiser said the team's cooperation and teamwork spelled success for SIS this year. Though he didn't expect the team to win, Kiser said the team deserves the honor for all the hard work it put in to prepare for the competition.

Despite their short preparation for this year's contest, Emily Jones, Stephanie Lee, and Liza Atalig said the SIS team exhibited excellent communication and teamwork. Of all the categories, the current events category, which included CNMI history, was among the most difficult they encountered, they said, because this is not part of their school curriculum.

SSHS National Honor Society president Roman Tudela told *Saipan Tribune* that this year's competition was another success despite the decline in the number of participants. Tudela said that budget constraints prevented Tinian and Rota from participating.

TIMELINE**From Page 1**

Auther and Haejun Park located a decomposing body of woman at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Matusi. The body was identified as Romero's.

■ **Feb. 8, 2012:** A detective received tip from a confidential source that on the evening of Feb. 4, Joseph Acosta Crisostomo was seen operating a rented tinted car. Investigators traced the rented car to Islander Rent A Car and seized the vehicle.

■ **Feb. 10, 2012:** A Guam Motorola technician extracted Romero's 911 call that lasted about 4 minutes. Investigators suspected that the male's voice was of Crisostomo's.

■ **Feb. 14, 2012:** Police arrested Crisostomo for possession of "ice" that happened at a secluded beach in Susupe on Jan. 11, 2012. Two FBI special agents interviewed Crisostomo at the Department of Corrections. Agents were able to obtain a water bottle that was later discarded by Crisostomo for FBI lab for analysis.

■ **Feb. 17, 2012:** Crisostomo's girlfriend for 17 years was brought to DPS where she identified the male voice in the 911 call as that of Crisostomo.

■ **Feb. 21, 2012:** Witness interviewed by two officers confessed that on the early morning of Feb. 5, Crisostomo was driving a tinted rent a car and was acting weird.

■ **May 18, 2012:** FBI special agent Park provided DPS a report of examination done by FBI Lab. Nuclear DNA examinations were conducted on the swab samples obtained from Romero during the autopsy.

Manacop said the results indicate the presence of DNA from two or more individuals. DNA samples that were obtained from the water bottle that Crisostomo used were then compared to the DNA from Romero and the results indicate that Crisostomo's DNA was potentially a major contributor.

On June 4, 2012, a search warrant was obtained for an oral DNA saliva swab from Crisostomo. The detective said evidence collected from this search confirmed Crisostomo as being a major donor of DNA that were found in the swab samples taken from Romero.

Manacop said that, on June 1, 2012, an FBI Lab analysis on a hair strand collected from inside the car with license plate ACG-246 matched the hair strands taken from Romero during autopsy.

Manacop also disclosed that, on June 18, 2012, an FBI Lab analysis on evidence procured from the vehicle found that black cotton fibers found in vacuum sweepings were consistent with the black clothing found around Romero's neck that were apparently used to strangle her.

■ **June 1, 2012:** FBI lab results concluded that a hair strand collected from the rental car matched Romero's hair strands.

■ **June 18, 2012:** FBI lab results found that cotton fibers found in the vacuum sweepings of a rented vehicle were consistent with black clothing found around Romero's neck that were used to strangle her.

■ **Feb. 22, 2013:** Police serve an arrest warrant on Crisostomo for the murder of Romero.

TO QUICKLY ADDRESS ACCREDITATION CONCERNS:

NMC eliminates dean of administration post to install CFAO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will eliminate and dissolve its dean of administration position to quickly address one of the major concerns of the accredita-

tion commission—the need to install a chief financial administrative officer.

In a statement Friday, the college disclosed that the current dean of administration, Dave Attao, wants to transfer to his old position as soon as a chief

financial and administrative officer is hired to avoid any duplication of responsibilities and to focus on other critical areas of the college.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., eliminated the CFAO position and the dean of

administration post in January 2012. She then appointed Attao to the post. His job includes overseeing various offices at the college including the finance office, the budget office, auxiliary services such as the NMC Bookstore, the information technology office, the procurement and property management office, and the facilities and maintenance office.

A month later, the Board of Regents ordered the reinstatement of the CFAO position, citing its critical role in meeting accreditation requirements. Since then, the post has been vacant.

In a recent commission letter that indicated its decision to place NMC under show-cause status, the CFAO position was identified among the concerns that the college needs to address by October this year.

Attao will be resuming his former duties at the Community Development Institute and he will also assume the leadership of the Apprenticeship Program as dean/director of CDI and Apprenticeship. In this capacity, he will keep his senior management position and report directly to the president.

“Whoever is selected as CFAO will have a great team to work with in all areas. I’d also like to stress that it was teamwork and the cooperative

spirit to work together that were the keys to the college’s better financial positioning, clean audits, and improved internal controls,” said Attao.

NMC is also being required to fill other posts including the Information Technology director. “I’d like to recognize that teamwork and cooperation led to improved IT conditions since the accreditation visit, and that most of the issues have been resolved or are close to resolution, and whoever takes [the] position will also have a great team to work with. I’d like to add that our HR director/legal counsel and president have been working hard with me and our IT team to fill the remaining IT positions including the IT direc-

tor,” said Attao. According to Hart, Attao’s leadership in the fiscal office of the college helped to stabilize many areas in the institution.

“We are grateful for David’s selfless and admirable proposal to assume other important responsibilities at the college. His leadership, along with the dedication and hard work of his staff, has helped to stabilize many areas of the institution, strengthened internal financial controls, and earn the college clean audits,” said the president.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate formally elected a new set of officers led by Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), and floor leader Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan) during a reorganizational session on Friday. That was two days after former president Jude U. Hofsneider became lieutenant governor and former lieutenant governor Eloy S. Inos became governor under a rule of succession when Benigno R. Fitial stepped down as governor.



Torres

Inos, at the same time, said he will fill the vacancy in the Senate left by Hofsneider as a senator from Tinian “within 30 days” as required.

Torres, the former vice president, said the Senate will work hard to help address the CNMI’s issues. Hocog, the former floor leader, said he would like to provide more funding to healthcare.

Yumul, for his part, said he will be focusing mainly on prolonging the lifespan of the NMI Retirement Fund along

with other issues such as boosting the economy and improving healthcare.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) remains the legislative secretary.

Chairmanships of certain committees also changed. Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) said he now heads the Rules and Procedures Committee that Torres previously held. Reyes said he now also heads the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications that Hocog previously chaired.

The new governor said he has asked the Office of the Attorney General to review the constitutional provision relating to vacancies in the Senate.

“It’s limited to Tinian so I’ve asked the Office of the Attorney General to take a look at the requirement filling that position. It was never problematic in the case of the House because the House always terminates at a given point and there’s no overlapping [of terms]. This is the first time that we will have a situation [in the Senate] wherein the language can be viewed as ambiguous because

it says [appointment of next top vote getter] from the last election,” Inos said.

In the last two elections, Joaquin Borja was the second highest vote getter among senatorial candidates on Tinian.

If Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) is convicted of endangered fruit bat smuggling and obstruction of justice, this will create another vacancy in the Senate. Ayuyu was supposed to have been the floor leader, but his incarceration for obstruction of justice paved the way for Hocog and later Yumul, to take his place.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero said the Senate may have to submit a certified question to the court to resolve the issue should a Rota senatorial seat becomes vacant.

The certified question would resolve the issue of whether the governor should appoint the next vote getter among Rota senatorial candidates in the 2010 or 2012 elections.

Torres reiterated that the Senate “will cross the bridge when we get there.”

Besides senators’ families, friends and supporters, the Senate organization session also saw the attendance of Inos, Hofsneider, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and other House members and government officials.

LAND ASSIGNMENT



1. **LAND AND BUILDING:** PICTURE ABOVE WITH POKER BUSINESS AND FORMER PIC LAUNDRY
LAND AREA: 757 SQ.M LOCATED AT SAN ANTONIO ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH NEAR PIC HOTEL AND PIC STAFF BARRACKS
2. **LAND AND BUILDING:** WITH 3 COMMERCIAL UNITS AND HOUSE 2 UNITS WITH TENANT
LAND AREA: 697 SQ.M LOCATED AT BEACH ROAD GARAPAN NEXT TO CENTURY INSURANCE BUILDING AND SAIPAN TRIBUNE
3. **LAND:** CONSIST OF 3 LOTS
LAND (A): 737 SQ.M **LAND (B):** 779 SQ.M
LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT: WITH HOUSE AND WAREHOUSE FORMERLY ASIA PACIFIC CORP.
LAND AREA: 683 SQ.M LOCATED ACROSS 13TH FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARIANAS EYE CLINIC
4. **LAND AND BUILDING:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT; FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS
LAND AREA: LAND (A) 1124 SQ.M, LAND (B) 1111 SQ.M LOCATED AT SAN ROQUE BEFORE PALM RESORT AND FORMER LA FIESTA
5. **LAND AND HOUSE (FARM):** LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ.M LOCATED AT DANDAN NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE
6. **LAND AND BUILDING:** LAND AREA: 1,788 SQ.M LOCATED IN AS LITO NEXT TO ST. JUDE CHURCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL NIKO CONSULTANT INC. OR EMER AT 234-1816 OR 287-0693

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Department of Commerce regulations under Title 20, Chapter 20-40, **Global Insurance, Inc.** issues this **PUBLIC NOTICE** of its intent to petition for the release of its security deposit in escrow for Global Insurance, Inc. issued labor surety bonds.

Any objection to such release must be filed within one week from the date of last publication of this notice to the CNMI Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Capital Hill, Saipan MP 96950

Ex-CAFD president gets 3-year probation for embezzling funds

The federal court on Friday slapped a three-year probation sentence on Elisa Borja Ada, a former president of the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities who embezzled the group’s funds.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Ada to pay \$18,614.47 in restitution to the victim, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Ada, also known as Elisa Ada Aldan and Lisa A. Ada, was required to pay a \$1,000 fine and \$100 special court assessment fee. She was required to perform 100 hours of community service. She was ordered to spend six months in home detention.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government. Court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley served as counsel for Ada.

Ada pleaded guilty to embezzling funds from a program receiving federal funds.

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities was



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of fuel for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purchase of approximately 18,000,000 – 20,000,000 US gallons annually of No. 2 Diesel Fuel Oil (also known as gasoil or Low Sulfur ADO for American Samoa and CNMI, as defined by US EPA) will be for the period starting May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **February 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-13-015, Supply & Delivery of Fuel for Power Generation”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 08, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees. Note that the CNMI Government at present, exempts the fuel supplier from paying liquid fuel tax (currently, \$0.15/gallon).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **February 22, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 13-003

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

Associate Engineer

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Position reports directly to CUC's Chief Engineer or his/her designee in the Engineering Section of the Water and Wastewater Divisions. This is a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051. Position is also known as the Drinking Water and Wastewater Associate Engineer ("AE"). Examples of duties:

- Coordinate and meet with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervise engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Review work performed by engineering technicians.
- Perform project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and letters, recommendations; develop scopes of work; provide technical reviews; surveying for projects; schedule project elements; evaluate proposals; monitor project progress and project funds; and, recommend selection of projects.
- Prepare engineering calculations, plans and specifications; design water and wastewater facilities and other utility related facilities; collect data and perform research.
- Troubleshoot systems and equipment.
- Manage construction and perform contract management activities including evaluating bids, correspondence with contractors and contracting officer, reviewing submittals, interpreting drawings and technical specifications, responding to contractor inquiries, evaluating work for compliance with contract provisions, processing payment requests, inspecting construction and other related tasks.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Associate Engineer must have the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering, or Mechanical Engineering if 5 years work experience in design and management of water and sewer facilities can be proven. Experience of eight (8) or more years of work as an engineer, and a minimum of five (5) years work experience in water and sewer related projects. Must demonstrate competency in overseeing drinking water systems and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, construction, and in maintenance of water and wastewater system components.
- Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction methods and techniques; Engineering principles and practices.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and pertinent software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATION:

- Professional Engineer's license in Civil, Environmental (or Mechanical) fields from the CNMI, Guam, the District of Columbia, or any state of the U.S.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

- United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
- Fax: 670-235-5131
- Drop Off:
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



JVA No. 13-016

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

DIRECT RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OPERATOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT LEVEL 2 CERTIFIED

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western Pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Wastewater are also responsible for: Cleaning, maintaining, repairing and painting submersible pumps; Lifting, inspecting and replacing submersible pumps; Rewinding motors for emergency purposes; Fabricating, welding and bypassing pumps and pipes to ensure operation; Troubleshooting treatment plant problems; Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Operating Vactor trucks; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels; Running sludge by oiling and cleaning the filter press. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. This is a Direct Responsible Charge (DRC Operator) position required by Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION:

Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$32,500.00 to \$42,500 per year; Plus overtime; Un-classified. Current salary and specific experience will be used to determine pay rate at entry.

RELOCATION: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITIONS:

One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensing Requirement: Wastewater Treatment Level Two Certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)). Also required is a CNMI Driver's License or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Education: High School Diploma, or General Education Diploma or Adult School Diploma through a U.S. state or territory Adult Basic Education program, "and" four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience related to the area assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

- United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
- If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.
- Fax: 670-235-5131
- Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

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It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Conviction, sentence in 'ice' case affirmed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the federal court's conviction and sentence of a former garment worker who was found guilty in the third largest haul of methamphetamine or "ice" in the CNMI so far.

Circuit Judges Susan Gruber, Jay S. Bybee, and Morgan Christen ruled that since defendant Yong Ming Song committed a traffic violation, the police officer's motives for pulling him over are irrelevant.

Song had argued that he has a defense of sentencing entrapment or manipulation.

"Even assuming he has not

waived this argument, defendant's sentencing entrapment and manipulation claims fail," said the judges in a two-page order filed in court Thursday.

The judges said that Song's decision as to the route he took was not influenced by law enforcement.

Song also argued that the sentencing penalties under 21 U.S.C. Section 860(a) should not apply.

"Even assuming that lack of voluntary presence is a defense to Section 860(a), the factual record in this case does not support such a defense," the judges said.

The Criminal Code provides for consecutive sentences for manufacturing or distributing and possessing with intent to distribute "ice" where children

reside or are present.

Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas and police officer Daniel Punimata had flagged down Song's car along Beach Road in San Jose on Sept. 11, 2008, after seeing him driving without a seatbelt.

Song's suspicious behavior prompted the officers to search the vehicle, where they found "ice" that, according to the prosecution, weighed 149 grams worth between \$60,000 to \$75,000.

In February 2009, a federal jury found Song guilty of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school with intent to distribute.

In May 2009, then chief judge Alex R. Munson sentenced the defendant to 15 years and eight months in prison.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Job Vacancy Announcement (Revised February 6, 2013)

JVA No. 13-006

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013

Closing Date: Until Filled

Deputy Executive Director

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Deputy Executive Director ("DED") fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides staff assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting staff reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Performs short and long-range strategic planning.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Deputy Executive Director must have the following:

- Master's degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, or, in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.
- Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs.
- A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate is desired, but not mandatory.
- Must demonstrate: Proven management and communications skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with water and wastewater systems, user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.
- Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules, and regulations.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$70,000.00 to \$130,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

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*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

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 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
Co-op Jobs Fair tomorrow

PSS Cooperative Education Career Fair will take place on Feb. 26, from 1pm to 3pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Cooperative Education Program is an internship program that allows high school students to gain and develop on-the-job training in exchange for academic credit. By participating in the Co-op Job Fair, employers will be able to network with high school students and will contribute toward developing a new generation of skilled workers. Companies and government agencies are encouraged to contact Christopher A. Tenorio at 237-3864 or Tyce Mister at 237-3248. (PR)

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 25 from 7pm to 5am, Feb. 26 and 28 from 7pm to 11:45pm, and March 1 from 7pm to 11:45pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Feb. 26 and 27 from 8:30am to 3:30pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

UOG offers free math placement test prep

The University of Guam Kubre Office is offering a free Math Placement Test Preparatory Program for high school students planning to attend the University of Guam. Sessions will be held from Feb. 25 to April 4, 2013, Mondays through Thursdays, from 6pm to 8pm; on Fridays from 5pm to 7pm; and on Saturdays from 12pm to 4pm. For more information, contact Cellini Higa at 735-2231 or email cjhiga@uguam.ug.edu. (UOG)

Schools invited to Academic Challenge Bowl

The Marianas High School chapter of the National Honor Society will be hosting the elementary-level Academic Challenge Bowl on April 6, 2013, Saturday. All public and private elementary schools are invited to participate in this event. Each participating school will need to form a team consisting of five students from grade four to six.

If your school is interested in joining this competition, confirm your participation by March 15, 2013, by faxing

(664-3805), calling, or emailing NHS advisers Lorraine Catienza at 237-3282 or lorraine.catienza@cnmipss.org or Dr. Chas Algaier at 237-3219 or chas.algaier@cnmipss.org. (PR)

'College Night' at Saipan Southern High

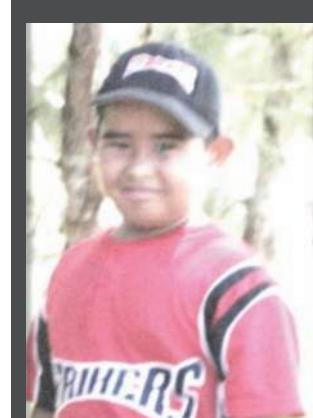
Saipan Southern High School will host a "College Night" tomorrow, Feb. 26, 2013, at the cafeteria from 6:30pm to about 9pm. There will be a presentation on the entire college process, along with materials handed out, and a Q&A, sponsored by Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands. All interested students in grades 9 to 12 are invited to attend. Parents are also welcome to come. (TWPI)

Tinian Municipal Council sets session

The 14th Tinian Municipal Council will have a regular session today, Feb. 25, 2013, at 10am, at the Municipal Council conference room. Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Council clerk at the Municipal Council office, prior to the convening of the session. Oral testimony may be presented during council's session. If you wish to present oral testimony, inform the Council clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the session. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy 14th birthday to Maile who celebrated her special day last Feb. 23. We wish you all the very best, all the joy you can ever have, and may you be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow, and the days to come. Stay beautiful and athletic always. Greetings from Jennifer, Lyka, Chloe, Bernadette, your other friends, and family



Happy 9th birthday to Ross Anthony DLG Arriola, who is celebrating his birthday today, Feb. 25, 2013! May God bless you! We hope your special day brings you blessings, happiness, and all that your heart desires! Greetings come from Mom, Dad and the entire families and friends. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Fireman arrested for alleged domestic violence, marijuana

A fireman at the Department of Public Safety was arrested early Saturday morning at the Micro Beach parking lot for alleged domestic violence. The firefighter was also allegedly found in possession of marijuana.

A source said yesterday that firefighter Jamie Cuellar, 23, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and illegal possession of controlled substance.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued the arrest warrant and imposed a \$5,000 cash bail, the source said.

Drinking alcohol was allegedly involved.

Cuellar allegedly wanted his girlfriend to get into a fight with another woman. When the girl-

friend refused, the firefighter allegedly pushed her twice.

When Cuellar was booked and processed at the Depart-

ment of Corrections, DOC officers allegedly found on him a bag that allegedly contained marijuana.

If he fails to post over the weekend, Cuellar is expected to be taken to court today for a bail hearing. (Frdie de la Torre)

Bereaved families support group sets March meeting

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on March 7, Thursday, from 6pm to 7:30pm, at the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The group offers understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age and from any cause. "We provide

a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no 'right way' to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen," the group said in a statement.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive

resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today, the group has more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or e-mail jill@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org.



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- Clean and inspect front and rear brakes
- Inspect and rotate tires; set correct tire pressure
- Check fuel tank, lines, hoses and connections, plus add Johnsen's fuel-injector cleaner
- Inspect front and rear axle boots and joints
- Inspect front and rear suspension, and drivetrain
- Clean A/C filter and adjust drive belts
- Clean air filter (a dirty air filter can cost 2-3 mpg in fuel efficiency)
- Test battery & clean terminals - Charge if necessary
- Check underbody for damage, rust or corrosion
- Perform minor chassis lubrication and topping of low fluids

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300-plus walkers remember JP Pangelinan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 5th Annual JP Walk held Saturday was another success, drawing over 300 walkers who participated in the event that pays tribute to the late Tan Holdings executive John "JP" Pangelinan.

Family members, former colleagues, and other community members gathered across JP Center along Beach Road as early as 5am to begin the three-mile walk that ended at the Susupe Beach Park.

An early morning downpour made walking conditions less than ideal but the walkers remained motivated and reached the finish line where sandwiches, fruits, water, and coffee were served.

Pangelinan passed away on Feb. 5, 2005, after a long battle with cancer but the former publisher of *Saipan Tribune* continues to live on, says Ruth Sablan, Pangelinan's niece who took part in Saturday's event.

"It's very hard to forget him. Growing up, we called him "Uncle Né." He's very funny, loving, and caring. He really takes time to come out and see us. That's why we really appreciate everyone who have joined us in remembering my uncle," said Sablan, who took care of her uncle during his last days.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos described Pangelinan as a close personal friend, having worked with Pangelinan for many years when he was still in the private sector.

"This walk pays tribute to JP and it is only fitting and proper to remember him. He was always very pleasant and had a good heart. The turnout shows how much JP is loved by his family and colleagues," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Graphic artist Jun Dayao said he has been a participant in the annual event since its inception in honor of a former boss who would always tease him at work.

"He would tell me that I'm my wife's knight in shining armor or that I am Willie Tan's long lost brother because I'm bald," Dayao recounted.

Pangelinan's youngest child, Christie Sablan, extended her appreciation to all those who continue to keep fond memories of her father.

"I still meet people who come up to me to let me know how nice my father was, how he would remember everyone's names and greet them. He would be thankful to all who attended this event but he's really a very modest man who doesn't like attention," she shared.

Christie Sablan acknowledged the walkers for giving up their weekend morning for the event that also promotes good health and brings families together.

"I feel great after the walk," said Christie Sablan who was joined by her son and other rela-

tives. "Thank you all for coming out and hopefully we can all do it again next year."

Saturday's walk was also a fundraising effort, raising some \$2,000 for the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer event in April.

Organizers sold raffle tickets for a chance to win any of

the exciting prizes from various sponsors, including DFS Saipan, Ltd., which donated a Ralph Lauren bag, and Delta Air Lines, which donated a roundtrip ticket to anywhere in Southeast Asia.

Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago said they made sure that this year's event

was much more organized, from the walker's registration to the distribution of refreshments.

"We're very pleased that we had hundreds of employees, family members, and friends who supported the event once again not only to remember JP but also to raise funds for a good cause," said Arago.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Family members of the late John Pangelinan smile for the camera following the 5th Annual JP Walk last Saturday, which concluded at the Susupe Beach Park. The yearly walk is held in honor of the former publisher of *Saipan Tribune* who passed away in 2008 after a long battle with cancer.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, right, awards the grand prize for the raffle draw held during the 5th Annual JP Walk on Saturday.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, right, remembers former executive John "JP" Pangelinan during the 5th Annual JP Walk held Saturday morning, as Gov. Eloy Inos, center, and Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago, left, listen. The walk, which began across from JP Center along Beach Road up to Susupe Beach Park, serves as a fundraising activity for the benefit of the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 25, 2004

Diego optimistic on 702's OK in Congress

Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente, fresh from signing the renegotiated Covenant Section 702 agreement in Washington D.C., expressed optimism yesterday that the accord will muster U.S. congressional approval. "It now goes to the U.S. Congress, not only the agreement that we signed but also the allocation of the entire \$27.7 million which would require congressional approval anyway. So I guess at this point, we need the support of everyone in Congress," he said. Benavente was appointed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta to head the negotiations on behalf of the CNMI. The agreement is seen to provide the CNMI as much as \$13 million a year for the next six years for capital improvement projects and would continue financial assistance indefinitely, or subject to U.S. Congress approval.

NMC removes special fee for film program

The Northern Marianas College Board of Directors has removed special fees for students taking up film and TV classes following the program's adoption as a separate department within NMC. The board in particular approved last Friday to drop the \$810 special fee, which was being charged to every student when the program was still being run on a contractual basis with a private firm, Pacific Rim Academy. The NMC's adoption of the program as a department now allows the Film and TV students to pay the regular NMC tuition instead of a special rate per semester of over \$1,500 each. NMC charges local students \$65 per credit; nonresidents, \$130 per credit; and international students, \$250.

Feb. 25, 2005

Teachers ask court to declare SU founder in default

Teachers and employees of the defunct Saipan University have asked the Superior Court to declare SU and its founder, Soon Kyung Park, of default in a civil lawsuit that seeks monetary damages. The employees' attorney, Colin M. Thompson, said SU and Park failed to respond to an amended complaint that he filed with the court last Jan. 18. Thompson said a copy of the amended complaint was served on SU and Park the following day. Thompson said the 10-day period within which Park and SU should file a responsive pleading fell on Jan. 30. The employees include Franklin R. Perez, Christi Omengebar, Anna Ludwick, Balbina Perez, Douglas Palacios, and Troy Palacios.

NMI gets new Compact money

The CNMI has received the go-signal to use its 2005 Compact Impact money totaling \$5.2 million, which the government intends to allot for education-related projects. Although the money is not literally here yet, the governor's senior policy adviser, Robert Schwalbach, said yesterday that the funds will be made available for use as soon as the U.S. Department of the Interior receives the CNMI's plan of action. He said the Fiscal Year 2005 Compact grant will be used mainly for the Public School System's immediate infrastructure needs-as pledged earlier by Gov. Juan N. Babauta. The governor had committed to use Compact Impact funds in the next four years for PSS-related projects.

Feb. 25, 2007

Bill allows judges, justices to elect chief justice

A constitutional amendment proposed in the House of Representatives would give justices and judges the power to elect the Supreme Court chief justice and the Superior Court presiding judge, respectively. Authored by Rep. Ray Yumul, House Legislative Initiative 15-14 seeks to give the power of selecting the chief justice and presiding judge to their colleagues. Currently, the chief justice and the presiding judge are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. No criteria has been set for the selection of these officials.

CNMI to lose revenue over Manila NCLEX

One obvious result of the recent U.S. decision to allow the Philippines to administer the National Council Licensure Examination would be the loss of revenues for the CNMI, said Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez. Saipan has been the favorite NCLEX testing site among Filipino nurses due to its proximity to the Philippines and a less stringent immigration system. Foreign nurses who take NCLEX in the CNMI have to register with the CNMI Board of Nursing and would have to pay at least \$80 each. "This revenue will not be seen since these nurses can take the NCLEX in Manila," said Villagomez.

US govt to air-drop toxic mice on Guam snakes

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AP)—Dead mice laced with painkillers are about to rain down on Guam's jungle canopy. They are scientists' prescription for a headache that has caused the tiny U.S. territory misery for more than 60 years: the brown tree snake.

Most of Guam's native bird species are extinct because of the snake, which reached the island's thick jungles by hitching rides from the South Pacific on U.S. military ships shortly after World War II. There may be 2 million of the reptiles on Guam now, decimating wildlife, biting residents and even knocking out electricity by slithering onto power lines.

More than 3,000 miles away, environmental officials in Hawaii have long feared a similar invasion—which in their case likely would be a “snakes on a plane” scenario. That would

cost the state many vulnerable species and billions of dollars, but the risk will fall if Guam's air-drop strategy succeeds.

“We are taking this to a new phase,” said Daniel Vice, assistant state director of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services in Hawaii, Guam, and the Pacific Islands. “There really is no other place in the world with a snake problem like Guam.”

Brown tree snakes are generally a few feet (1 meter) long but can grow to be more than 10 feet (3 meters) in length. Most of Guam's native birds were defenseless against the nocturnal, tree-based predators, and within a few decades of the reptile's arrival, nearly all of them were wiped out.

The snakes can also climb power poles and wires, causing blackouts, or slither into homes and bite people, including babies; they use venom on their prey but it is not lethal to humans.

The infestation and the toll it has taken on native wildlife have tarnished Guam's image as a tourism haven, though the snakes are rarely seen outside their jungle habitat.

The solution to this headache, fittingly enough, is acetaminophen, the active ingredient in painkillers including Tylenol.

The strategy takes advantage



In this photo taken on Feb. 5, 2013, U.S. Department of Agriculture wildlife specialist Tony Salas holds a Brown Tree Snake outside his office on Andersen Air Force Base on the island of Guam.

of the snake's two big weaknesses. Unlike most snakes, brown tree snakes are happy to eat prey they didn't kill themselves, and they are highly vulnerable to acetaminophen, which is harmless to humans.

The upcoming mice drop is targeted to hit snakes near Guam's sprawling Andersen

Air Force Base, which is surrounded by heavy foliage and if compromised would offer the snakes a potential ticket off the island. Using helicopters, the dead neonatal mice will be dropped by hand, one by one.

U.S. government scientists have been perfecting the mice-drop strategy for more than a

decade with support from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior.

To keep the mice bait from dropping all the way to the ground, where it could be eaten by other animals or attract insects as they rot, researchers have developed a flotation device with streamers designed to catch in the branches of the forest foliage, where the snakes live and feed.

Experts say the impact on other species will be minimal, particularly since the snakes have themselves wiped out the birds that might have been most at risk.

“One concern was that crows may eat mice with the toxicant,” said William Pitt, of the U.S. National Wildlife Research Center's Hawaii Field Station. “However, there are no longer wild crows on Guam. We will continue to refine methods to increase efficiency and limit any potential non-target hazards.”

The mouse drop is set to start in April or May.

Vice said the goal is not to eradicate the snakes, but to control and contain them. Just as the snakes found their way to Guam, they could stow away on a ship, or more likely the

cargo hold of an airplane, and begin breeding on other islands around the Pacific or even the U.S. West Coast.

That “snakes on a plane” scenario has officials in Hawaii on edge. The islands of Hawaii, like Guam, lack the predators that could keep a brown tree snake population in check.

Native Hawaiian birds “literally don't know what to do when they see a snake coming,” said Christy Martin, a spokeswoman for the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, a partnership of Hawaii government agencies and private organizations.

A 2010 study conducted by the National Wildlife Research Center found brown tree snakes would cause between \$593 million and \$2.14 billion in economic damage each year if they became established in Hawaii like they are on Guam. Power outages would cause the most damage, followed by a projected decline in tourism. The cost of treating snake bites would account for a small share.

“Once we get snakes here, we're never going to be able to fix the situation,” Martin said.

Though the snakes are native to Australia and Papua New Guinea, Guam is much closer to Hawaii and its snake population is much more dense, meaning it is the primary threat for snake stowaways.

So far, Guam's containment seems to be working. Only a few brown tree snakes have ever been found in Hawaii, and none over the past 17 years.

“If we continue doing what we are doing, the chance of success is very high,” Vice said. “If what we are doing stops, I think the possibility of the snakes getting to Hawaii is inevitable.”

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, “One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives,” will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Sponsored by the University of Guam Office of the President, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the Guam Preservation Trust, and Guampedia, this year's event follows on the heels of the highly successful 2012 Marianas History Conference on Saipan. Proceedings of that event are available online at guampedia.com.

The conference theme highlights the deep and rich history of the Mariana Islands, while also bridging the archipelago's political division dating to the late 1800s. Papers and posters may be submitted under the following general categories: Ancient History; Early Colonial (17th – 18th centuries); Late Colonial (19th – early 20th centuries) World War II; Recent (post-war); and Oral History and Genealogical Research.

Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. Due to limited seating, the number of registrants will be capped at 220, thus early registration is highly recommended. Late registration is \$40.

For additional information, visit the conference website at www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). (UOG)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

KRISNALYN) FCD-DI CIVIL
D. REYES) ACTION
Petitioner,) NO. 12-0478
vs.) SUMMONS FOR
MARLON V. REYES) PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501932, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISMAIL HOSSAIN) FCD-DI CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION
vs.) NO. 13-0045
HERMINA HAUK) SUMMONS FOR
Respondent) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501456, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 1st day of February, 2013

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOSEPHINE DLC.) FCD-DI CIVIL
PIAO,) ACTION
Petitioner,) NO. 13-0051
vs.) SUMMONS FOR
ANDERSON PARKS,) PUBLICATION
Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 50129, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 6th day of February, 2013:

/s/ Clerk of Court

William Kenneth C. Belyeu
P.O. Box 503129
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 285-3775

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

William Kenneth Castro Belyeu) FCD-DI-CIVIL
Petitioner,) ACTION
vs.) NO. 13-0078
Sharon Kay Faulkner) SUMMONS FOR
Respondent.) PUBLICATION

TO: Sharon Kay Faulkner

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 503129 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

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THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,) NO. 07-0021
vs.)
-v-) EIGHTH
JOSEPH ALDAN) AMENDED
ARRIOLA) NOTICE
Defendant.) OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS check No. 034 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Venezuela's invisible president

Hugo Chavez's stealth return to Venezuela this week, which was carried out with the same signature secrecy that surrounds all aspects of his health status, makes it clearer than ever that Venezuela is leaderless and in need of someone else to take over.

The public was not allowed to get so much as a glimpse of the ailing 58-year-old leader to determine whether he is incapacitated, though all signs point in that direction. Access to the hospital's ninth floor, where Chavez resides, is tightly restricted and enforced by a phalanx of gun-toting guards. He has not been seen or heard from since he came back, aside from a few Twitter messages that hailed his arrival and then went silent.

Despite all this enormous secrecy, the evidence is that Chavez's condition is much worse than his underlings want the public to believe and that they are either kidding themselves or the public—or both—in order to play for time.

Chavez left for Cuba on Dec. 10, but neither his departure nor his arrival in Cuba were televised. His absence was marked by virtually complete silence from the president himself, though he managed televised conferences during earlier hospital stays.

The increasingly insistent assurances from his designated stand-ins, principally Vice President Nicolás Maduro, that Chavez was in charge and issuing orders from his hospital bed were rendered less than credible by news that his medical condition was getting progressively worse. Post-surgery complications and what Maduro called a severe lung infection did little to restore confidence in the belief that the president was truly in charge.

Meanwhile, despite still more assurances that the president would definitely return for his own inauguration for yet another term on Jan. 10, the president was a no-show. Undaunted, Chavez's rubber-stamp parliament and supreme court concocted a ruse. The plain words of Venezuela's constitution notwithstanding, they decided he could simply take the oath of office later, at his convenience.

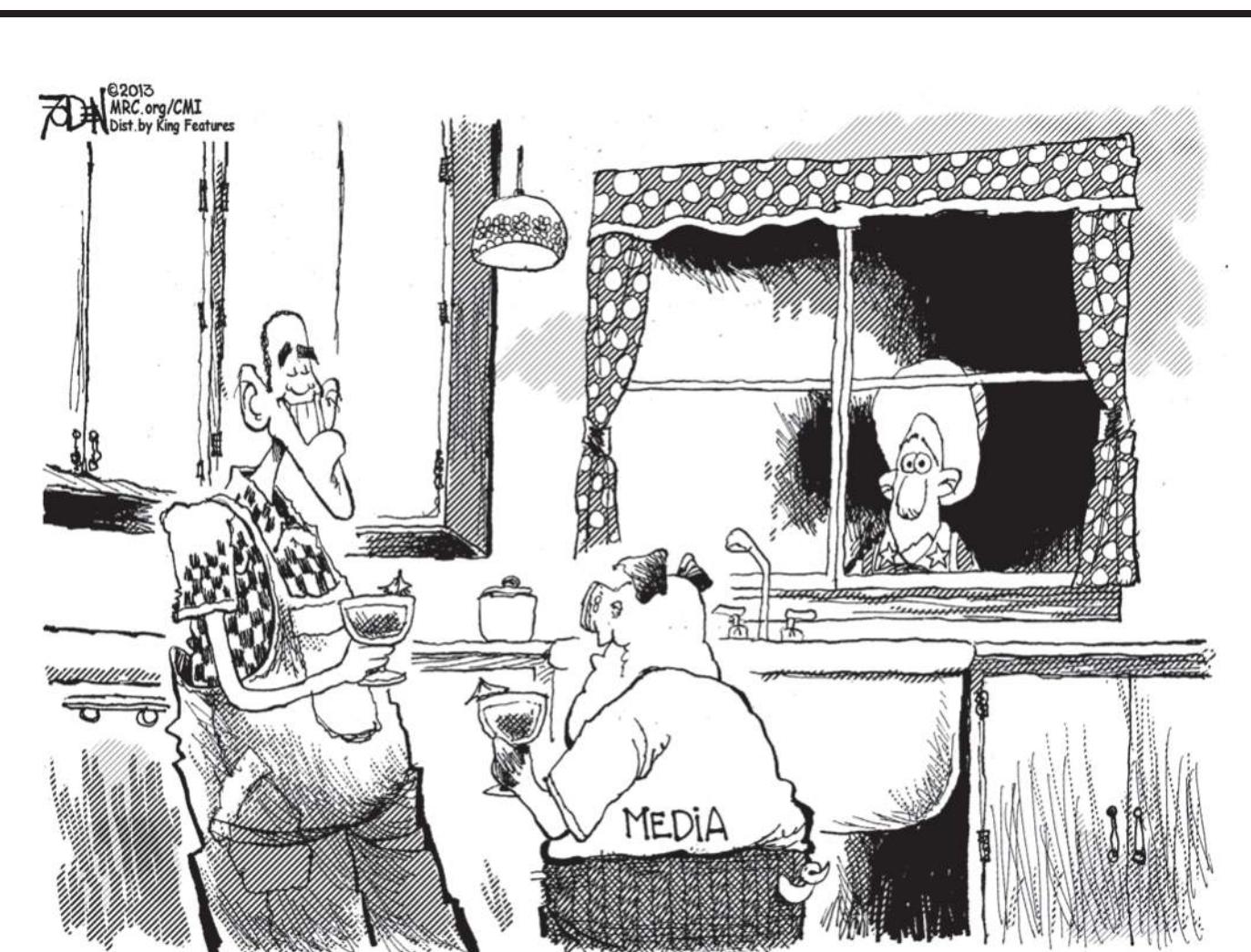
Since then, Venezuela's eroding currency has taken a severe hit in the form of a 40 percent devaluation, yet one more measure of the country's downslide into economic chaos. All of this makes it very clear that members of Chavez's inner circle are making it up as they go along.

As long as Venezuela's president remains invisible, the political and economic crisis will worsen. Having Maduro or some other Chavez substitute take the reins of power would fail to satisfy the requirements of democracy, given that their legitimacy, such as it is, flows from Chavez himself, not from the voters.

Chavez won a clear mandate for another term back in October, but he assured voters that he was cured, and he wasn't.

The only option is a new election that pits the opposition against the Bolivarian candidate of Chavez's party in a fair and open vote. Barring that, what little claim Venezuela might still have to calling itself a democracy would be nothing less than ridiculous.

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"The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which." George Orwell - Animal Farm

America's opportunity for all

In a world where the federal government changes your light bulbs and micromanages the water level in your toilet, it seems as if there's no limit to Washington's power and influence. But that's exactly why this is the right moment for Americans to begin pushing back and reclaiming our rights to limited government and unlimited opportunity.

Today, too many Americans are either out of work or have altogether given up on looking for a job. Overall compensation has been flat over recent years. College graduates are moving back in with their parents as jobs fail to materialize.

But those problems are the result of misguided government policies.

We need bold reforms that meet the demands of the moment and address the magnitude of the challenges before us. The goal is to enable a prosperous and secure nation, where the American Dream is within everyone's reach, including:

- Middle-class families struggling in a bad economy.
- Young people worried about their future prospects.
- Those stuck in poverty, reaching for the ladder of opportunity.
- Entrepreneurs and job creators seeking to expand prosperity.

Government in the last half century has expanded, centralized and bureaucratized to the point that it is now the chief barrier to creativity, innovation and economic growth.

But America is still the land of opportunity. The American Dream grows out of the exceptional principles this country was founded upon.

So how should we begin reining in the power of government? It starts with putting an end to tax increases. True tax reform should create a fair, flat tax structure that anyone can understand and comply with.

Likewise, spending must be reformed.

For example, few lawmakers would vote for Social Security or Medicare in their current forms. The programs have been able to grow out of control because they're treated as "entitlement" spending and left on autopilot. We need to make them part of the budget, and thus part of the spending discussion. Doing so will encourage long-reaching reform, such as returning Social Security to its original purpose as an insurance program.

Congress should also cut spending and impose firm caps. Like any American family, our federal government should live within its means.

Washington can also encourage people to do more if bureaucrats are expected to do less. Federal bureaucrats are trying to micromanage huge chunks of the economy, from energy to banking and beyond. Entire sectors are drowning in red tape. Lawmakers should

By MATTHEW SPALDING

The Heritage Foundation

Matthew Spalding is vice president for American studies at The Heritage Foundation.



take control, reviewing existing regulations to ensure they remain necessary. They should also review new regulations before they can take effect and impose sunset dates on any new regulations.

Finally, it's important to note that energy has always been plentiful in the United States. In our earliest days there were an abundance of trees. Later coal and oil powered our surging economy. And today, fracking is delivering so much energy that new Secretary of State John Kerry called us the "Saudi Arabia of natural gas."

The federal government should regulate carefully, protecting the environment without stamping out this revolution in energy production. Policymakers should also prevent the EPA from misusing the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide. A free market will deliver all the affordable, clean energy we need; federal interference would only hold us back.

Based on the principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, generations of Americans have created a nation unlike any other in history. Our economy produces almost a quarter of the world's wealth, and our military forces are the most powerful on the globe. The institutions of civil society—families, religious communities and private associations—thrive in America, forming an independent people that are among the most hard-working, generous, and forward-looking in the world.

We can reduce the size and scope of government and restore economic productivity. We can reform the core programs of government to provide assistance the deserving and a way out for those who fall on hard times.

All this is possible only if we make a concerted effort to change America's course. That means building a consensus in favor of a new direction, and advancing a forward-looking reform agenda to strengthen free enterprise and eliminate cronyism. By firing up the engines of opportunity and upward mobility, providing for our nation's defense, championing liberty and rebuilding constitutional self-government, we can succeed.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A few drops of *calamansi*

The juice of the *calamansi* fruit is a mainstay in Philippine cuisine, particularly when mixed with soy sauce and used to tickle the sour-acculturated pores of the Pinoy taste buds. Considered native to the Philippines, the fruit actually traces its origins to China, a hybrid of orange and kumquat. Unknown in the wild, it is also known as *calamandarin* and *calamandarin*!

It's origins and its names are not our concern. Its taste is. The favored *pansit* (noodles) just does not taste well without a drop of *calamansi*, and that's how we found our taste buds spurned at a restaurant in Honolulu that served a noodle viand without a slice of the locally abundant *calamansi*.

Sour is solely the *calamansi*'s taste, as bitter is tamed by the leukemia-limiting and diabetes-defending *ampalaya* (bitter melon). Sour and bitter are not foreign to the Pinoy tongue, nor are they shunned in the realm of human experience. As in the viand, sour and bitter are at par to sweet in the acceptance of the treasures of the human condition.

In our recent journey, we parted with a love that will not ripen. That we should at our age still succumb to the allure of a relationship of intimacy, affection, and permanence is a wonderful mark of our humanity. That it did not turn out to be the case, nevertheless, does not negate the reality of real romance. We wax poetic in navigating through these waters for, like the drop of *calamansi*, sour comes as spice rather than as the main course in the banquet and feast of our life.

Nor did we savor sweet when we left a 92-year-old mother under intermediate medical health care. In her advanced age, Mom now laces her discourse with bitter memories of her life that also flavors the relationship she maintains with her children and the care facility staff that attends to her. Demonstrated second childhood is not easy to watch because it reminds us where we eventually are heading!

We need a pope with a different background

By TERESA PUENTE
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

The cardinals in Rome should choose an Asian, African or Latin American to succeed Pope Benedict XVI.

If the cardinals vote based on where they come from, then it is unlikely we would see a pope who is not from Europe, where every pope in modern history was born. A majority of the 117 cardinals come from Europe.

But their nationalities do not reflect the changing demographics of the Catholic Church in the 21st century.

There are around 1.2 billion Catholics in the world, and a majority of Catholics now live in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The biggest concentration of Catholics is in Latin America and the Caribbean, at 39 percent. This is followed by Europe at 24 percent, sub-Saharan Africa at 16 percent, Asia and the Pacific at 12 percent, North America at 8 percent and the Middle East and North Africa at 1 percent, according to 2010 figures from the Pew Research Center.

The five countries with the largest Catholic populations are Brazil (more than 125 million), Mexico (96 million), the Philippines and

Still, the adage that only children and old people tell the truth is evident in mother's raw comments unadorned with the sweet coating of civility, good manners, and right conduct! At first sight, after a year's absence, her opening salvo was, "Why do you have a bloated stomach?" Such comment enlivens the tendrils of filial piety!

The sour taste that accompanied the last few years of Governor Fitial's missteps in governance among those who supported him abounds, and the subdued delight in his resignation is widespread. However, to tarry too long in the canopy of remorse and regret invites disease. One's energy and imagination are best expended in the service of charting destiny, dress fate with the robe of intention.

To the Saipan Pinoy community is added sour-bitter-sweet taste in the news that finally someone is indicted in the murder of bartender Emerita Romero, more so since the accused seems to be well connected in the close-knit fold of the local community, not always just to "alien" victims.

Political tastes notwithstanding, citizens now need to dialogue, converse with, and collaborate with Gov. Eloy Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider. More importantly, in the democratic space of the time, with advances in information technology readily available to many, no longer is sane and rational participatory democracy confined to electing representatives, leaving decision-making to a numbered few. *We the People* must now turn to awakened, informed, socially active, and politically astute citizens.

Pinoyos have a condiment called *sukang pinakurat*, a vinegar from "tuba" (fermented sap from coconut) blended with "labuyo" chili (abundant on Tinian and throughout Micronesia) and other ingredients. The coconut vinegar is mixed with garlic and ginger, fish sauce (or plain salt if the fish sauce is too fragrant for one's olfactory comfort) and chili, then, onions. Solids are often chopped and allowed to marinade in the vinegar for a length of time. For quicker results, sol-

ids are blended to the liquid. Either way, the resulting sauce, with a drop of *calamansi*, sends many Pinoy taste buds to culinary heaven!

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



ids are blended to the liquid. Either way, the resulting sauce, with a drop of *calamansi*, sends many Pinoy taste buds to culinary heaven!

The sour and bitter taste of experiences need not be the occasion for despair and recrimination. Life as never the way we want it is no basis to refuse its promise. We can still live life in freedom and responsibility, however it comes.

Serendipitously, our exit from Honolulu was uncharacteristically sweet. My sister's weighing scale was defective so we did not exactly know the weight of my two check-in bags. Not unusual for a Pinoy, the luggage went beyond the limit at an extra cost of \$100. After learning that the books and coffee plastic bottles, along with the camera tripod, were to be left behind for giveaways, the counter lady whispered that she will turn her back and I could slip the extra pieces back as long as it was no more than 3 lbs overweight!

Now lugging a large jar of dairy creamer, a poster tube, a computer bag and office bag now weighted with books and a portable electric transformer, we rated six additional buckets to our computer and camera bags at security. The TSA lady not only allowed us continued use of the \$4 pushcart from the airport sidewalk, we were also graciously helped to move our lined stuff past the x-ray screening.

Calamansi stirred with brown sugar tastes well.

one into the church and who will look at ways to examine whether church doctrine makes sense in today's modern world. Birth control, gay marriage and women priests are just some of the issues some Catholics like myself would like the church to re-examine. The world is changing, and the church needs to change, too.

Catholics also need a leader who will protect our children and will vigorously prosecute those priests or clergy who sexually abuse the vulnerable.

The cardinals should select a pope who will best represent the faith and most eloquently speak for those who are voiceless and oppressed. And the pope must be a universal leader who can inspire us to live by the golden rule to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

When the smoke signals rise from the Vatican indicating the conclave of cardinals has selected a new pope, it would be powerful if this time the ashes were a shade darker than white.

Teresa Puente teaches journalism at Columbia College Chicago and also writes the Chicanisima blog. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project.

have the entire 25 years, we will take whatever you can give. This is fishing. Saipan Surfrider LLC should ask for what you need, not see what you can get. This is corporate greed and downright wrong.

Investing is not just putting money into a commercial venture, investing is also about investing in our community by paying each one's fair share of taxes. Paying taxes is part of being a good community member and it is corporate responsibility to support our public services through payment of taxes, *all taxes*. As an example, the Joeten family of businesses has engaged in business in the CNMI for over 60 years but has never asked for a tax holiday. How can we sit by and let these new investors not contribute to our community?

Lastly Mr. Joyner, February is Black History Month. All of us must appreciate and utilize the freedoms for which our forefathers fought and died for. One of these freedoms is the right to free speech and debate. Don't hate us for being less educated than you or because we have a dissenting opinion but heed the voices of the indigenous people. Your job as a special adviser to the governor beckons you to listen to all parties and not take sides. After all we are also the governor's constituents. Don't wield your position in this government to strong-arm the CDA board to listen to your beliefs. You gave your testimony, let the CDA board do its job. That is respect for the process and to the local community and its people. We trust them to do the right thing for the local taxpayers, government and indigenous business community.

Gary Sword
Papago, Saipan

Letter to the Editor

Don't hate the player, hate the game

In response to Dr. John B. Joyner's open letter to the CDA board (*Saipan Tribune*, Feb. 15, 2013): It is ironic that a person of African-American descent will engage in evoking Jim Crow standards to public testimony given to the CDA board during public comment. Mr. Norman Tenorio, Mr. Diego Benevente, and I are indigenous Pacific Islanders and members of this CNMI community. We have a right under the Constitution of the United States to express our views and opposition to the Saipan Surfrider project's request to avoid paying BGRT, excise tax, liquor tax and impact fees to the CNMI for 25 years.

Mr. Joyner, don't hate the player, hate the game. Just as much as the Saipan Surfrider LLC. has a right to ask for a license to escape taxation, which this government severely needs, we have a right to oppose it.

Again, here are our points for opposition to issuance of a QC to Saipan Surfrider LLC. Saipan Surfrider LLC is asking for:

(1) 25-year waiver on excise taxes, which means they will import all their materials, goods, and supplies and not buy local from our local businesses who do pay the BGRT, excise taxes, liquor taxes and impact fees. Further there is no incentive to buy local produce from our local fishermen and farmers.

(2) 25-year waiver on business gross revenue tax, which means that they will enjoy a free ride for all public services. They will not contrib-

ute to our police and fire departments, our Public School System, our hospital, our social programs, and our community needs in general but they can use them at will, free of charge.

(3) 25-year waiver on liquor taxes will mean our locally owned bars and restaurants will be at a disadvantage and will probably wither and die as the margins continue to shrink.

(4) 25-year waiver for all infrastructure fees will mean they will not pay for any improvement to the sewer lines they will hook up to, the water system they will draw from, nor any other public services they will need will be paid for by the community at large.

I fully support, as does the entire community, any new entity that wants to engage in business in the CNMI. What we detest is that this project is a scheme to utilize the EB5 U.S. visa for Asians to obtain a foothold in our limited CNMI economy at the expense of the CNMI community. For the millions of dollars Saipan Surfrider LLC is asking in a tax holidays, they will give back 15 jobs, pay the hotel tax (which is paid for by our visitors), and pay income tax (which is paid for by the employees and investors). Basically, 15 jobs for 25 years, no taxes. The community will continue to pay for the public services while our new friends from Asia will just enjoy the benefits.

Saipan Surfrider LLC is also telling the CDA board, if we cannot

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 67
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 41 ▼ 38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 44
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 69
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 67
New York	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 34
Paris	Ice	▲ 39 ▼ 31
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 37
Rome	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 38
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 26
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 30
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 35

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Today	5:52 PM	5:45 AM
Tuesday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Tuesday	6:45 PM	6:27 AM
Wednesday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Wednesday	7:38 PM	7:09 AM
Thursday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Thursday	8:32 PM	7:52 AM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM	Friday	9:29 PM	8:37 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
0Z121	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	1:

Business

Sources: Boeing proposes battery fix for 787s

WASHINGTON (AP)—Boeing attempted a major step Friday toward getting its 787 Dreamliners flying again, proposing a fix for the plane's troubled batteries that could allow the flights to resume as early as April, congressional officials said.

The next question is whether the Federal Aviation Administration will agree to let the planes fly even though the root cause of a battery fire in one plane and a smoking battery in another is still unknown.

A Boeing team led by CEO Ray Conner presented the plan to Federal Aviation Administration head Michael Huerta. The airliners, Boeing's newest and most technologically advanced, have not been allowed to fly since mid-January.

The plan—a long-term solution, rather than a temporary fix—calls for revamping the aircraft's two lithium ion batteries to ensure that any short-circuiting that could lead to a fire won't spread from one battery cell to the others, officials said. That would be achieved by placing more robust ceramic insulation around each of the battery's eight cells. The aim is to contain not only the short-circuiting, but any thermal runaway, a chemical reaction that leads to progressively hotter temperatures.

The additional spacers will enlarge the battery, requiring a bigger battery box to hold the eight cells. That new box would also be more robust, with greater insulation along its sides



This Feb. 5, 2013 file photo shows a line of Boeing 787 jets parked nose-to-tail at Paine Field in Everett, Wash.

AP

to prevent any fire from escaping and damaging the rest of the plane, officials said.

The plan will require testing and partially recertifying the safety of the plane's batteries, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

The testing and recertification will take time, with engineers currently estimating completion sometime in April at the soonest, they said. Even after the batteries are recertified, it could take some more time to get the

planes back into the air. Boeing will have to send teams to eight airlines in seven countries to retrofit their planes.

It's up to Huerta to decide whether to approve the plan. But Boeing's plan is not a surprise, since the company has kept regulators closely informed, the officials said.

"The FAA is reviewing a Boeing proposal and will analyze it closely," the agency said in a statement Friday. "The safety of the flying public is our top priority and we won't allow the 787 to return

to commercial service until we're confident that any proposed solution has addressed the battery failure risks."

Boeing also acknowledged the meeting, but spokesman Marc Birtel would not discuss what was said. "We are encouraged by the progress being made toward resolving the issue," the company's written statement said.

Boeing, the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board still have not identified the root cause of a Jan. 7 fire that erupted in an auxiliary

power unit battery of a Japan Airlines 787 about a half-hour after the plane landed at Boston's Logan International

Panama Canal project raises ire around East ports

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Residents of this city's Ironbound neighborhood are familiar with big modes of transport. Jumbo jets fly so low while approaching Newark Airport that it seems one can hop onto a wing. Double-decker trains race through, ferrying passengers to New York City. Trucks rumble down narrow streets where the smell of Portuguese barbecue wafts through the air and Brazilian music emanates from stores and cars.

But some here and in neighborhoods near other East Coast ports are leery of the monster ships that will soon arrive because of a trade project thou-

sands of miles away that they believe will harm their air quality, roadways and waterways.

"We can't afford any additional environmental burdens," said Joseph Della Fave, executive director of the Ironbound Community Corp.

East and Gulf coast ports are jockeying against one another, scrambling to accommodate so-called "post-Panamax" ships: massive vessels that can traverse an expanded Panama Canal. The \$5.25 billion project is expected to be completed in 2015 and will nearly triple the size of ships that can travel the canal.

One of the most remarkable transformations is proposed not far from the Ironbound. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey wants to raise the Bayonne Bridge, a soaring steel arch span that connects Bayonne, N.J., with New York City's Staten Island borough, by 64 feet. The \$1 billion project would allow post-Panamax ships to reach Port Newark and the Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminals in New Jersey and Howland Hook in New York. It was fast-tracked by President Barack Obama last year and is expected to be completed in 2016. Channels near

the bridge will be deepened to 50 feet.

Residents in the Ironbound and on Staten Island worry that larger ships will bring more trucks and increased diesel pollution to poor communities that already shoulder heavy traffic loads. The Ironbound Community Corp. does an annual one-day count of trucks that pass through and idle in the heavily industrial neighborhood; in 2011 it counted 1,327 driving on neighborhood streets and highways and 41 idling. The Ironbound is also home to the state's largest incinerator and sewage treatment plant.

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Protest groups joined forces under the slogan "Citizens' Tide, 23F," referring to the Feb. 23, 1981, attack by the armed forces on the parliament. Organizers said that Spain "is under a financial coup" and called on people to march against what they said was government favoritism toward financial institutions at the expense of ordinary citizens.

Many Spaniards have been enraged by austerity cutbacks and tax hikes introduced by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in a bid to reduce the deficit, ease market pressures on government borrowing and try and avoid a full financial bailout. Spain is in its second recession in three years and has 26 percent unemployment.

"We are all indignant and

Airport. The safety board is investigating that incident, but NTSB officials didn't attend Friday's meeting and declined to comment on the proposal.

Engineers and battery experts gathered by Boeing developed a list of possible causes for the fire and a plan to modify the batteries to address the spread of a fire created by any of those causes, officials said.

Nine days after the Boston fire, an All Nippon Airways 787 with a smoking battery made an emergency landing in Japan. The FAA and aviation authorities overseas ordered the planes grounded soon afterward. There are a total of 50 of the planes in service worldwide, and Boeing had orders for 800 of the airliners at the time they were grounded.

On Thursday, United Airlines cut its six 787s from its flying plans at least until June and postponed its new Denver-to-Tokyo flights as airlines continued to tear up their schedules while the plane is out of service. United is the only U.S. carrier with 787s in its fleet.

Spain anti-austerity marches attract thousands

MADRID (AP)—Tens of thousands of people marched on Spain's parliament on Saturday to protest austerity measures, a demonstration that came on the 32nd anniversary of a failed attempt by the armed forces to overthrow the government.

Protest groups joined forces under the slogan "Citizens' Tide, 23F," referring to the Feb. 23, 1981, attack by the armed forces on the parliament. Organizers said that Spain "is under a financial coup" and called on people to march against what they said was government favoritism toward financial institutions at the expense of ordinary citizens.

Similar protests were planned in 80 Spanish cities. News agency Europa Press reported that thousands of demonstrators had gathered as far afield as in the city of Las Palmas on the Atlantic island of Gran Canaria. Rajoy was elected in a landslide late 2011 after saying during his election campaign that he had no plans to raise taxes or cut pensions.

Around 2,000 riot police guarded the columns of protesters that marched toward parliament from four points in Madrid.

Protest organizers had asked people to dress in white, green, red, yellow, black, blue or purple to represent their interests, such as health services, ecology or fire services, among others.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Microsoft joins list of companies recently hacked

REDMOND, Wash. (AP)—Microsoft has joined the list of prominent technology companies confirming they have been hit by a recent computer hacking attack. In a blog posting Friday, Microsoft said it had found no

evidence that any customer data had been heisted. Microsoft Corp. gave few other details about the break-in, except to say that was it similar to a hacking attack that online social networking leader Facebook Inc. disclosed last week. Facebook had said its investigation had discovered other companies

had been hacked, but didn't identify the other victims. Like Facebook, Microsoft says it is still investigating how malicious software was planted on what it said were a small number of its computers. Online messaging service Twitter also recently disclosed that hackers may have stolen information about

250,000 of its users.

Oil levels off after 2 days of steep losses

NEW YORK (AP)—The price of oil was little changed Friday after a 5 percent fall over the last two days. The drop in crude showed signs of slowing the upward spiral of gas pump

prices as well, at least temporarily. Benchmark crude for April delivery rose 29 cents to finish at \$93.13 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price oil that many U.S. refineries use to make gasoline, rose 57 cents at end at \$114.10 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in Lon-

don. At the pump the national average for a gallon of regular gas was \$3.78, about where it was on Thursday, but 14 cents higher than a week ago and almost half a dollar more than a month ago, according to AAA. Drivers in California, Florida, the Northeast and the Midwest are paying the most.

Nation

Governors: Looming cuts threaten economic gains

WASHINGTON (AP)—Washington's protracted budget stalemate could seriously undermine the economy and stall gains made since the recession, exasperated governors said Saturday as they tried to gauge the fallout from impending federal spending cuts.

At the annual National Governors Association meeting, both Democrat and Republican chief executives expressed pessimism that both sides could find a way to avoid the massive, automatic spending cuts set to begin March 1, pointing to the impasse as another crisis between the White House and Congress that hampers their ability to construct state spending plans and spooks local businesses from hiring.

Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie, a former congressman, noted that the cuts—known in Washington-speak as “the sequester”—could lead to 19,000 workers laid off at Pearl Harbor, site of the surprise attack in 1941 that launched the United

States into World War II. Today, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam supports Air Force and Navy missions.

“That will undermine our capacity for readiness at Pearl Harbor. If that doesn't symbolize for the nation ... what happens when we fail to meet our responsibilities congressionally, I don't know what does,” Abercrombie said.

The budget fight came as

many states say they are on the cusp of an economic comeback from the financial upheaval in 2008 and 2009. States expect their general fund revenues this year to surpass the amounts collected before the Great Recession kicked in. An estimated \$693 billion in revenues is expected for the 2013 budget year, nearly a 4 percent increase over the previous year.

“It's a damn shame,” said Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat. “We've actually had the fastest rate of jobs recovery of any state in our region. And this really threatens to hurt a lot of families in our state and kind of flat line our job growth for the next several months.”

At their weekend meetings, governors were focusing on ways to boost job development

and grow their state economies, measures to restrict gun violence and implement the new health care law approved during Obama's first term.

Some Republican governors have blocked the use of Medicaid to expand health insurance coverage for millions of uninsured while others have joined Democrats in a wholesale ex-

pansion as the law allows. The Medicaid expansion aims to cover about half of the 30 million uninsured people expected to eventually gain coverage under the health care overhaul.

Yet for many governors, the budget-cut fight remains front-and-center and fuels a pervasive sense of frustration with Washington.

NRA uses Justice memo to accuse Obama on guns

WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Rifle Association is using a Justice Department memo it obtained to argue in ads that the Obama administration believes its gun control plans won't work unless the government seizes firearms and requires national gun registration—ideas the White House has not proposed and does not support.

The NRA's assertion and its obtaining of the memo in the first place underscore the no-holds-barred battle under way as Washington's fight over gun restrictions heats up.

The memo, under the name of one of the Justice Department's leading crime researchers, critiques the effectiveness of gun control proposals, including some of President Barack

Obama's. A Justice Department official called the memo an unfinished review of gun violence research and said it does not represent administration policy.

The memo says requiring background checks for more gun purchases could help, but also could lead to more illicit weapons sales. It says banning assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines produced in the future but exempting those already owned by the public, as Obama has proposed, would have limited impact because people now own so many of those items.

It also says that even total elimination of assault weapons would have little overall effect on gun killings because assault weapons account for a limited proportion of those crimes.

ACROSS THE NATION

26-year-old man named as suspect in Vegas shooting

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The black SUV used as a getaway car in a pre-dawn shooting and crash that killed an aspiring rapper in a Maserati and two people in a taxi on the Las Vegas Strip was found Saturday as police named a 26-year-old man as the prime suspect. Ammar Harris was being sought in connection with the shooting and six-vehicle chain-reaction carnage Thursday on the neon-lit boulevard near the Bellagio, Caesars Palace, Bally's and Flamingo resorts, police said. “His location is unknown,” police Capt. Chris Jones said of Harris, who sometimes goes by the name Ammar Asim Faruq Harris. Police say he has been arrested for working as a pimp. Police released a photo that was taken when Harris was arrested last year on pandering, kidnapping, sexual assault and coercion charges. The disposition of that case was not immediately known.

2 people injured in Chicago mall disturbance

CHICAGO (AP)—A manager at a Chicago mall where the boy band Mindless Behavior signed autographs for fans says a disturbance that left two people with minor injuries was “totally unrelated” to the event. Ford City Mall senior general manager John Sarama says a group of older youths caused Saturday's disturbance, not the young girls and parents who attended the boy band appearance. Police spokesman Veejay Zala says multiple arrests were made but none for serious charges. He says officers evacuated the mall and closed it for the rest of the day.

100 passengers rescued from Dallas Zoo monorail

DALLAS (AP)—About 100 people have been rescued without injury by firefighters after a monorail at the Dallas Zoo stopped operating. Dallas Fire Rescue spokesman Jason Evans says as many as five extension ladders at a time were used to remove the passengers Saturday. Local television stations reported the train was between 15 and 20 feet off the ground when it stopped. Evans says firefighters responded to a 911 call about 3:30 p.m. after an unspecified malfunction caused the train to stop moving. He says the 30-minute rescue was made easier because firefighters had easy access to the passengers.

ND school investigating fans in KKK-style hoods



In this Friday, Feb. 22, 2013 photo provided by Shane Schuster, three people in the Red River High School student section wear Ku Klux Klan-style white robes and hoods during a semifinal game in the North Dakota Boys Hockey Tournament at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, N.D.

Davies High School 2-0 to advance to Saturday night's North Dakota Boys State Hockey Tournament title game against

Grafton-Park River.

Davies High School is named in honor of Ronald Davies, the former federal judge from Fargo

whose 1957 rulings integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Ark.—a pivotal event in the civil rights movement.

Asia

SKorea's new leader faces NKorea nuke crisis

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Even before she takes office Monday as South Korea's first female president, Park Geun-hye's campaign vow to soften Seoul's current hard-line approach to rival North Korea is being tested by Pyongyang's recent underground nuclear detonation.

Pyongyang, Washington, Beijing and Tokyo are all watching to see if Park, the daughter of a staunchly anti-communist dictator, pursues an ambitious engagement policy meant to ease five years of animosity on the divided peninsula or if she sticks with the tough stance of her fellow conservative predecessor, Lee Myung-bak.

Park's decision is important because it will likely set the tone of the larger diplomatic approach that Washington and others take in stalled efforts to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons ambitions.

It will also be complicated by North Korea's warning of unspecified "second and third measures of greater intensity," a threat that comes as Washington and others push for tightened U.N. sanctions as punishment for the Feb. 12 atomic test, the North's third since 2006.

That test is seen as another step toward North Korea's goal of building a bomb small enough to be mounted on a missile that can hit the United States. The explosion, which



In this Feb. 22, 2013 photo, South Korean President-elect Park Geun-hye, left, listens to Deputy commander, Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command Gen. Kwon Oh-sung during her visit at the Combined Forces Command in Seoul, South Korea. AP

Pyongyang called a response to U.S. hostility, triggered global outrage.

Park has said she won't yet change her policy, which was built with the high probability of provocations from Pyongyang in mind. But some aren't sure if engagement can work, given North Korea's choice of "bombs over electricity," as American scientist Siegfried Hecker puts it.

"Normalization of relations, a peace treaty, access to energy

and economic opportunities—those things that come from choosing electricity over bombs and have the potential of lifting the North Korean people out of poverty and hardship—will be made much more difficult, if not impossible, for at least the next five years," Hecker, a regular visitor to North Korea, said in a posting on the website of Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation.

As she takes office, however,

Park will be mindful that many South Koreans are frustrated at the state of inter-Korean relations after the Lee government's five-year rule, which saw two nuclear tests, three long-range rocket launches and attacks blamed on North Korea that killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

Park's policy calls for strong defense but also for efforts to build trust through aid shipments, reconciliation talks and the resumption of some large-scale economic initiatives as progress

occurs on the nuclear issue. Park has also held out the possibility of a summit with new North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Much is riding on Park's conclusion.

"The overall policy direction on North Korea among the U.S., Japan and South Korea will be hers to decide," said Victor Cha, a former senior Asia adviser to President George W. Bush. "If Park Geun-hye wants to contain, the U.S. will support that. But if Park Geun-hye, months down the road, wants to engage, then the U.S. will go along with that too."

Engagement by Park would provide a sharp contrast with the rule of her father, Park Chung-hee, whose antipathy toward Pyongyang during his 18-year rule in the 1960s and '70s prompted a failed attack on the Blue House by 31 North Korean commandos in 1968. In 1974, Park's wife was shot and killed by a Japan-born Korean claiming he was acting on assassination orders by North Korea founder and then leader Kim Il Sung.

Critics say Park Geun-hye's North Korea policy lacks specifics. They also question how

far she can go given her conservative base's strong anti-Pyongyang sentiments.

But Park has previously confounded ideological expectations. She travelled to Pyongyang in 2002 and held private talks with the late Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un, and her gifts to Kim Jong Il are showcased in a museum of gifts to the North Korean leaders. During the often contentious presidential campaign, she responded to liberal criticism by reaching out to the families of victims of her father's dictatorship.

She said in her 2007 autobiography that she visited Pyongyang because she thought her painful experiences with the North made her "the one who could resolve South-North relations better than anyone else." She also wrote that Kim Jong Il apologized for the 1968 attack.

"I don't think this latest spike in the cycle of provocation and response undermines her whole platform of seeking to somehow re-engage the North," said John Delury, an analyst at Seoul's Yonsei University. North Korea wants a return of large-scale aid and investment from South Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Photo of dead boy ups pressure on Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI (AP)—The photo shows a boy sitting shirtless by a row of sandbags as he glumly eats a snack. The next photo shows him lying face up in the dirt, a series of bullet holes in his chest. The makers of a documentary on Sri Lanka say the boy was the 12-year-old son of Sri Lankan insurgent leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, and that the photos prove he was captured and then executed by the Sri Lankan military. Sri Lanka denies the charge. The accusation comes as Sri Lanka struggles to fend off a surge of criticism about its conduct in the final days of the war in 2009 and its treatment of government critics and the Tamil minority in the four years since. Last week, Navi Pillay, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, accused the country of failing to investigate reports of atrocities and said government opponents were being killed and abducted.

Hundreds of people, including schoolchildren, protested in Bhandara on Saturday, demanding greater safety for women and girls. They shouted slogans against police and district authorities, accusing them of failing to curb crimes against women.

Saturday demanding death to Islamic political party leaders who are on trial for alleged war crimes during the country's 1971 independence war. Eight top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's largest Islamic party, are being tried on charges of mass killings, rapes and arson allegedly committed during Bangladesh's nine-month war of separation from Pakistan. Earlier this month, a tribunal convicted party leader Abdul Quader Mollah of mass killings during the war and sentenced him to life in prison, a sentence that many Bangladeshis considered lenient.

Philippine militants release Filipino hostage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say al-Qaida-linked militants have released a Filipino hostage but there is no word on the fate of six foreign captives. Sulu provincial police Chief Antonio Freyra says grocery store owner Edgar Fabella was released by the Abu Sayyaf group early Friday near the port on Jolo island. Fabella was kidnapped last month in southern Zamboanga city. Fabella said he wasn't harmed by his captors and denied paying for his freedom. "I have no money to pay a ransom," he said before he was taken away by police who will take him back to Zamboanga, about 160 kilometers (100 miles) northeast of Jolo.

India villagers demand progress in fatal rape case

NEW DELHI (AP)—Angry villagers in western India threatened Saturday to resume a highway blockade unless police show progress in the search for suspects in the rape and killing of three young sisters.

The girls' bodies were found Feb. 16 in a village well in Bhandara district in Maharashtra state after they had gone missing from school two days earlier. According to news reports, their mother has said the girls were 6, 9 and 10 years old.

Also on Saturday, in a separate incident, a teacher was arrested for allegedly raping

a 13-year-old schoolgirl in Bhandara's Golati village on Thursday, Press Trust of India reported. The teacher, who surrendered after the girl complained to police, was charged with raping a minor, PTI said.

Bhandara is about 1,000 kilometers (630 miles) south of New Delhi, India's capital.

The mother of the three sisters who were raped and killed said police did not immediately take the case seriously and did nothing until villagers held protests this past week, including blocking the highway. On Saturday, they threatened to block it again

if police do not show progress in their investigation.

Police officer Abhinav Deshmukh said Friday that 10 teams of 30 investigators were working on the case and that he was confident they would find the killers soon.

On Saturday, a senior police official said that some men were being questioned about the rape and killing of the girls, but that no arrests had been made. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The headmaster of the girls'

school was suspended Saturday for failing to inform the family or police that the girls were missing, CNN-IBN television channel reported. Teachers and students had reported to the headmaster that the three girls were not present during lunch on Feb. 14, the report said.

Hundreds of people, including schoolchildren, protested in Bhandara on Saturday, demanding greater safety for women and girls. They shouted slogans against police and district authorities, accusing them of failing to curb crimes against women.

Logar province, also in the east. That explosion wounded three police officers but no one was killed, said Deputy Police Chief Rais Khan Abdul Rahimzai.

In Kabul, meanwhile, local television stations showed footage of the aftermath of a shootout in which Afghan security forces killed a man who appeared to be an insurgent attacker. In the footage, intelligence agents step over the body of the man as they inspect the 4x4 vehicle he was driving. Officials declined to com-

ment on the incident.

Later in the morning, a man wearing a suicide vest blew himself up outside the police headquarters for Baraki Barak district in Logar province. The man was stopped by police as he tried to force his way into the building, but still managed to detonate his vest, said Din Mohammad Darwesh, the provincial government spokesman.

One policeman was wounded in the Baraki Barak attack, Darwesh said.

Car bomb hits intelligence agency in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A series of early morning attacks hit eastern Afghanistan Sunday, with three separate suicide bombings in outlying provinces and a shootout between security forces and a would-be attacker in the capital city of Kabul.

The deadliest attack was a suicide car bombing just after sunrise in the eastern city of Jalalabad that killed two guards at an intelligence agency office.

In that attack, a car approached the gate of the com-

pound used by the National Directorate of Security and exploded, killing two guards and wounding three others, said regional government spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai. The building was damaged in the attack, he added.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Shortly before the Jalalabad attack, an assailant detonated a van packed with explosives at a highway police checkpoint in

Logar province, also in the east. That explosion wounded three police officers but no one was killed, said Deputy Police Chief Rais Khan Abdul Rahimzai.

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DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Thousands of students rallied in Bangladesh's capital on

World

Egypt opposition leader calls for election boycott

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei called Saturday for a boycott of parliamentary elections, drawing immediate criticism from some within his movement who said it was a hasty decision.

The dispute showed the fragility of a fairly new opposition front forged after the deeply fragmented movement found little success at the polls since it led the 2011 uprising that ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Opposition infighting would only help ensure that the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood group remains Egypt's dominant political force after the next vote.

"(I) called for parliamentary election boycott in 2010 to expose sham democracy. Today I repeat my call, will not be part of an act of deception," Nobel laureate ElBaradei, who leads the opposition National Salvation Front (NSF), wrote on his Twitter account.

The comment reiterated a frequently heard opposition sentiment that democratically elected President Mohammed Morsi is acting like Mubarak.

Elections under Mubarak's



In this Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012 file photo, released by the Egyptian Presidency, Nobel Peace Prize winner and head of the opposition Egyptian Constitution political party, Mohamed ElBaradei, left, meets with Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, in Cairo, Egypt.

three-decade rule were widely rigged and parliament was dominated by members of his ruling party.

Morsi called for the elections in a decree late Thursday night—a four-stage vote starting at the end of April and concluding in June.

On Friday, ElBaradei said holding elections during this time of deep political polarization "is a recipe for disaster."

Morsi's Brotherhood accused the opposition of running away from the challenge.

The deputy head of the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice

Party, Essam el-Erian, responded to ElBaradei's call on his Facebook page.

"Running away from a popular test only means that some want to assume executive authority without a democratic mandate," he said of the opposition. "We've never yet known

Reshaped papacy raises questions for church future

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

Pope Benedict XVI has reshaped the papacy simply by giving it up. But how?

As the first pontiff in six centuries to step down, Benedict has carved a new path for his successors who decide they cannot rule for life. But scholars say the repercussions could reach beyond just changing how pontiffs leave to ultimately shape perceptions about the authority and significance of the pontificate.

"A lot of what it will mean has to do with what subsequent popes do. Does this become a precedent for future popes to follow or not?" said Phillip Thompson, executive director

of the Aquinas Center of Theology at Emory University.

Benedict's pontificate will end at 8 p.m. Thursday. He plans no role in the conclave that will choose the next pontiff, and will retreat to a life of prayer in a monastery behind Vatican walls. His decision shocked the church. But papal resignations are expected to become more likely over time because of extended lifespans and the growing demands of the pontificate, Thompson said.

Travel is now a major responsibility due largely to the globe-trotting example of Pope John Paul II. Shepherding the 1.1 billion faithful requires constant contact through the Internet. These days, Catholics far

from the Holy See can watch the weekly general audience, ask the pope questions on Twitter and pray in real time along with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. As a result, staying on until death can mean a very public decline. John Paul, suffering from Parkinson's disease and other health troubles, could no longer walk or talk when he died in 2005 at age 84.

The pope is regarded as a teacher, an international diplomat and an administrator, but he is also the vicar of Christ - a leader with a divine mission. Benedict's retirement raised fears that the pontificate could be viewed as less holy. Some questions have even focused on the much misunderstood

Catholic teaching on papal infallibility: With two popes, one emeritus and one in power, who will have the final say? In fact, infallibility applies to the office, not the person, and only when a pope invokes apostolic authority to define doctrine or morals for the entire church.

Yet, many Catholic scholars say the act has in some ways demystified the papacy, especially given the intense focus in the final days of Benedict's pontificate to the 2012 scandal over leaked Vatican documents and what role the crisis had played in his decision to leave. Joseph Bottum, writing in *The Weekly Standard*, a conservative U.S. publication, called Benedict "a terrible executive of the Vatican."

in another impoverished Aleppo neighborhood killed at least 33 people, almost half of them children.

In Damascus, government forces shelled several rebellious suburbs Saturday as part of their efforts to dislodge opposition fighters who have used the towns and villages surrounding the capital as a staging ground for their attempts to push into the center of the city.

Recent rebel advances in the suburbs, combined with the bombings and three straight days of mortar attacks earlier this week, marked the most sustained challenge to the heart of Damascus, the seat of Assad's power.

A similar attack on Tuesday

Battle for Syria's Aleppo airport intensifies

BEIRUT (AP)—The battle for Syria's second-largest airport intensified Saturday as government troops tried to reverse recent strategic gains the rebels have made in the northeast in their quest to topple President Bashar Assad.

Assad's forces have been locked in a stalemate with rebels in Aleppo since July when the city, the largest in Syria, became a major battlefield in the 2-year-old conflict. The United Nations says has killed at least 70,000 people. For months, rebels have been trying to capture the international airport, which is closed because of the fighting.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, direc-

tor of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights activist group, said the current fighting was focused on a section of a highway linking the airport with Aleppo, the commercial hub of the nation.

The rebels have cut off the highway, which the army has been using to transport troops and supplies to a military base within the airport complex. Rebels have made other advances in the battle for the airport in recent weeks, including overrunning two army bases along the road to the airport.

The rebels also control large swaths of countryside outside

them to face any election or serious test."

The mutual recriminations reflected a new escalation in political tensions that could spill into even wider strikes and protests ahead of the elections.

The opposition has accused Morsi and his Brotherhood backers of using election wins to monopolize power in tactics similar to the former regime.

They accuse Morsi of reneging on a promise to form an inclusive government representative of the Christian minority, women, and liberals.

In the country's last major vote, a hotly disputed constitutional referendum in December, ElBaradei urged his supporters at the last minute to participate and vote "No" after a debate within the opposition over whether to boycott.

The referendum was mired in controversy and rights groups criticized unchecked voting irregularities.

The Islamists, accused of ramming the charter through a drafting panel that they dominated, won passage by more than 60 percent, but turnout was low around 30 percent. Critics said the document opened the

way for imposing Islamic law more strictly in Egypt.

Tensions soared in the run-up to the vote, with violent clashes between pro- and anti-government protesters that led to bloodshed outside the presidential palace.

Almost immediately after ElBaradei's boycott call, rifts began to emerge in the opposition. Even members of his opposition bloc, the NSF, said the group had not yet decided on a boycott.

Some activists criticized the call, saying it would alienate the masses and allow the Brotherhood free rein over the lower house of parliament, which writes laws and is supposed to monitor the president.

The Brotherhood already has the most seats in the upper chamber of parliament, largely an advisory body currently serving as an interim parliament. And it also successfully fielded Morsi as its candidate for president.

In Egypt's first free elections in 2011, the Brotherhood won nearly half of seats in parliament and the more conservative Islamists known as Salafis won a quarter.

Mali radicals recruited child soldiers at schools

GAO, Mali (AP)—The radical Islamic fighters showed up at Mohamed Salia's Quranic school, armed with weapons and demanding to address his students.

The leader, named Hamadi, entered one of the classrooms, took a piece of chalk and scrawled his message on the blackboard.

"How to wage holy war," he wrote in Arabic. "How to terrorize the enemy in combat," the lesson plan continued.

Then his mobile phone rang, and he stepped away to answer. Salia urged his students to pose some questions of their own when he returned: Where had he come from and what did he want with a bunch of young people?

Hamadi told the students that people didn't ask questions like that where he was from. Islam knows no nationality, he replied and then left—and did not return before the French-led military operation ousted him and his fighters from power last month.

"I told my students to be careful: that these men may be well-versed in the Quran but their Islamic point of view is not the same as ours," the teacher recalled.

Nearly a month after the al-Qaida-linked militants were driven out of Gao and into the surrounding villages, students are now returning to the city's

Quranic schools.

Many classrooms, though, are still half full, as tens of thousands of people fled the fighting and strict Islamic rule the extremists.

However, other pupils left Gao not with their families but with the Islamic fighters when they retreated, say human rights activists and local officials.

The experience of the Gao schools illustrates how the extremists used madrassas in northern Mali to indoctrinate young people and to recruit child soldiers.

The Islamic radicals attacked Gao several times this week, their second assault on the strategic city since they retreated in the face of French and Malian military, and their young recruits appear to be part of the strategy of MUJAO, or Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa.

"MUJAO took many of the students from the Quranic schools because they speak Arabic and are easier to convert and manipulate," Gao Mayor Sadou Diallo told The Associated Press. "Between 200 and 300 children have disappeared with the jihadis."

"The schools were all complicit. They didn't have a choice—if you didn't collaborate with MUJAO you died," Diallo said.

Health & Fitness

Doc groups issue list of overused tests, therapies

FDA approves new targeted breast cancer drug

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration has approved a first-of-a-kind breast cancer medication that targets tumor cells while sparing healthy ones.

The drug Kadcyla from Roche combines the established drug Herceptin with a powerful chemotherapy drug and a third chemical linking the medicines together. The chemical keeps the cocktail intact until it binds to a cancer cell, delivering a potent dose of anti-tumor poison.

Cancer researchers say the drug is an important step forward because it delivers more medication while reducing the unpleasant side effects of chemotherapy.

"This antibody goes seeking out the tumor cells, gets internalized and then explodes them from within. So it's very kind and gentle on the patients—there's no hair loss, no nausea, no vomiting," said Dr. Melody Cobleigh of Rush University Medical Center. "It's a revolutionary way of treating cancer."

Cobleigh helped conduct the key studies of the drug at the Chicago facility.

The FDA approved the new treatment for about 20 percent of breast cancer patients with a form of the disease that is typically more aggressive and less responsive to hormone therapy. These patients have tumors that overproduce a protein known as HER-2. Breast cancer is the second most deadly form of cancer in U.S. women, and is expected to kill more than 39,000 Americans this year, according to the National Cancer Institute.

The approval will help Roche's Genentech unit build on the blockbuster success of Herceptin, which has long dominated the breast cancer marketplace. The drug had sales of roughly \$6 billion last year.

Genentech said Friday that Kadcyla will cost \$9,800 per month, compared to \$4,500 per month for regular Herceptin. The company estimates a full course of Kadcyla, about nine months of medicine, will cost \$94,000.

FDA scientists said they approved the drug based on company studies showing Kadcyla delayed the progression of breast cancer by several months. Researchers reported last year that patients treated with the drug lived 9.6 months before death or the spread of their disease, compared with a little more than six months for patients treated with two other standard drugs, Tykerb and Xeloda.

Overall, patients taking Kadcyla lived about 2.6 years, compared with 2 years for patients taking the other drugs.

FDA specifically approved the



This undated image provided by Roche on Friday, Feb. 22, 2013 shows a vial and packaging for the drug Kadcyla.

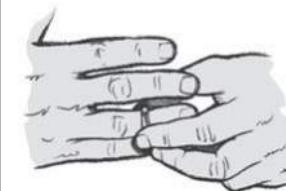
drug for patients with advanced breast cancer who have already been treated with Herceptin and taxane, a widely used chemotherapy drug. Doctors are not re-

quired to follow FDA prescribing guidelines, and cancer researchers say the drug could have great potential in patients with earlier forms of breast cancer

How to wash your hands

Whether using antibacterial or regular soap, consumers will get the best results by following proper hand-washing procedures. The main benefit of hand-washing is its ability to dislodge and wash away bacteria and viruses rather than killing them. Here are some tips:

1 Water Start with warm water because you want to be comfortable and because water hot enough to kill germs would likely injure you; warm water may help with soap lathering



2 Jewelry Remove any rings or jewelry or watches



3 Soap Touchless pumps are optimal as bars or pumps can harbor bacteria from other people who use them; follow the instructions on the recommended amounts of soap to use



4 Lather Lather the palms, in between the fingers, on the back of hands and under the fingernails; scoop the soap from the palm with the fingers of the other hand and scrub around the nails and nail beds and then your thumbs and wrists



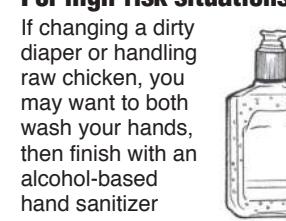
5 Rinse Thoroughly rinse all the soap from your hands, with the whole process lasting around 25 seconds



6 Dry Dry hands with a paper towel because if you haven't thoroughly washed your hands, you can contaminate a towel that a whole family uses; throw away the paper towel in a waste basket when done



For high-risk situations If changing a dirty diaper or handling raw chicken, you may want to both wash your hands, then finish with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer



© 2013 MCT
Source: Allison Aiello, associate professor of epidemiology at the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Graphic: Rick Tuma, Chicago Tribune

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Don't be afraid to question your doctor and ask, "Do I really need that?"

That's the advice from leading medical groups who came up dozens of tests and treatments that physicians too often prescribe when they shouldn't.

No worrisome stroke signs? Then don't screen a healthy person for a clogged neck artery, the family physicians say. It could lead to risky surgery for a blockage too small to matter.

Don't routinely try heartburn medicine for infants with reflux, the pediatric hospitalists say. It hasn't been proven to work in babies, and could cause side effects.

Don't try feeding tubes in people with advanced dementia, say the hospice providers. Helping them eat is a better option.

These are examples of potentially needless care that not only can waste money and time, but sometimes can harm, says the warning being issued Thursday from medical specialty groups that represent more than 350,000 doctors.

Too many people "think that more is better, that more treat-

ment, more testing somehow results in better health care," said Dr. Glen Stream, former president of the American Academy of Family Physicians, which contributed to the list. "That really is not true."

The recommendations are part of a coalition called Choosing Wisely, formed by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation. Participating medical societies were asked to identify five tests or treatments that are commonly overused in their specialty. The list is aimed at doctors and includes references to published studies. Consumers Reports and other consumer groups are publicizing the information in more patient-friendly terms.

Last year, the coalition listed 45 overused tests and treatments. It included some of the best known examples, such as too much imaging for back pain and repeating colonoscopies too frequently.

This year's list adds 90 more overused kinds of care. Some are the result of doctors' habits, hard to overcome despite new evidence, Stream said. Others come about because patients demand care they think they need.

Some other examples:

■ Don't use opioid painkillers for migraines except as a last resort, say the neurologists. There are better, more migraine-specific drugs available without the addictive risk of narcotics. Plus, frequent use of opioids actually can worsen migraines, a concept known as rebound headache.

■ Just because a pregnant woman misses her due date, don't race to induce labor if mom and baby are doing fine, say the obstetricians. Inducing before the cervix is ready often fails, leading to an unneeded C-section. "Just being due by the calendar doesn't mean your body says you're due," Stream notes.

■ Don't automatically give a child a CT scan after a minor head injury, say the pediatricians. About half of children who go to the ER with head injuries get this radiation-heavy scan, and clinical observation first could help some who don't really need a CT avoid it.

■ And don't leave an implanted heart-zapping defibrillator turned on when a patient is near death, say the hospice providers. This technology clearly saves lives by guarding against an irregular heartbeat.

Personal Trainer

Part skiing, part skating

Mini skis that give an experience like skiing and in-line skating at the same time are appearing more and more on the slopes.

Length
30 to 39 in.
(75-99 cm),
less than half
the length of
standard skis

Bindings
Nonreleasing
snowboard type;
breakaway bindings
are safest for
young skiers



Boots
Standard
ski boots

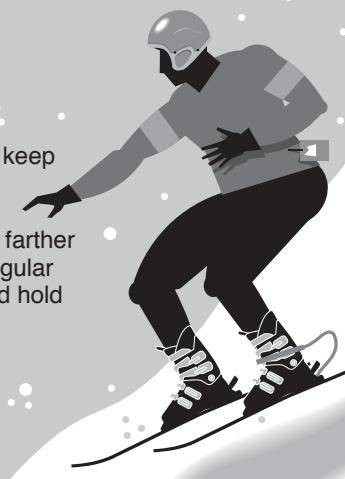
Shorter lengths Better for tricks, half-pipes, spins
Longer lengths Better for carving turns

Enjoying them safely

- Spend at least a short session with a qualified instructor
- Wear a helmet
- Use a runaway leash to keep ski from escaping

To maintain control, keep your weight farther back and feet farther apart than for regular skis; bend your ankles and knees, and hold your hands forward

"Snow-Blade," sometimes used in a generic sense, is a copyrighted name for Salomon's mini skis



Source:
Snowboard
instructor
Lorne Milne
(Vancouver,
Canada);
Curtis Sport
Connection

Graphic: Helen
Lee McComas,
Paul Trap

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Life & Style

Put on your best face with some surprising expert tips

By NANCY CHURNIN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

What's the best way to put your best face forward? Begin with the building blocks of a healthy body—a nutritious diet, regular exercise and time to relax, reflect and reduce stress.

Once you've got the basics down, try these expert tips to bring out the best (and prevent the worst!) in your skin, hair, teeth and eyes.

■■■

SKIN Block and cover:

The single best way to care for your skin is to protect it from the sun's ultraviolet rays, which cause wrinkles, brown spots, sagging skin and 90 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers. While sunscreen remains the No. 1 recommendation of doctors, there's a lot of excitement now about new lines of clothing with UV protection and laundry detergents that infuse UV protection in the wash. Experts find a lot more potential good in clothes and detergents than they do in cosmetics that advertise these claims. Most experts note that you would have to slather on the cosmetics to be effective, which wouldn't be a pretty or cost-effective sight.

The Skin Cancer Foundation calls clothing "the single most effective form of sun protection" and recommends looking for an ultraviolet protection factor label on the clothes you buy, with the UPF number, which ranges from 1 to 50, indicating what fraction of the sun's rays can penetrate the garment. Remember, however, that clothing can only protect what it covers, which means you shouldn't get too excited about UV protection in sleeveless shirts.

Your face and neck are the most vulnerable to basal and squamous cell carcinomas, so the Skin Cancer Foundation recommends hats with brims that extend 3 inches or more to shade the face, neck, ears and the top of the shoulders.

Without UV protection, your best clothing bets are darker or brighter colors, tightly woven or closely knitted fabrics, and synthetic and semisynthetic fibers such as heavier, denser fabrics.

For the best overall protection, don't forget the sunscreen, said Dr. Patrick Keehan of Premier Dermatology, a dermatologist with Texas Health Physicians Group in Fort Worth. He advises looking for the ones labeled sunblocks, since they contain either titanium or zinc oxide, which provide more effective coverage.

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends an SPF of at least 30, which blocks out 95 percent to 97 percent of the sun's rays. If you can, avoid extended outdoor activities between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and apply sunblock to exposed skin at least 15 minutes before going outside—even in the winter and on cloudy or rainy days. Reapply every two hours during ongoing sun exposure and after swimming or sweating.

Cream's not just for coffee:

Healthy, moisturized skin not only looks good, it provides a barrier against the dangers of our world—abrasion, germs, heat and cold.

Many factors can dry out the skin by stripping it of essential oils: aging, which also lessens skin-cell regeneration; heat in the home and the car; electric blankets and space heaters; soaking in a hot tub; long, hot showers; and winters, which usually go hand in hand with a drop in humidity. If you've never experienced dry skin before, you should check with your doctor to see if low-thyroid or hormonal changes could be contributing to the problem.

Dr. Jessica Saucier, dermatologist on staff at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, recommended slathering on creams rather than lotions because creams are usually more effective, particularly if they're petroleum-based or contain ceramides or fatty acids.

Experts advise taking it easy on the bath bubbles, toners, peels and astringents. Use a soap-free cleanser or a gentle soap that's free of fragrance, deodorant or antibacterial additives. Keep the shower or bath as short as possible, towel off gently and lather on moisturizer afterward and throughout the day, particularly after washing hands. Put balm on your lips and don't lick them—because saliva irritates the skin. If you wear lipstick, which can be drying, it's important to apply lip balm first.

One of our favorite moisturizing tips comes from Dr. Daniel Pham, a family physician at Texas' Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine. Pham fills the bathroom sinks with hot water in the evening, adds a scent his family likes and lets the water stand overnight as natural humidifiers. He waters his many houseplants generously and puts wet towels out to dry overnight over bedroom furniture, letting the air absorb the moisture, rather than putting them in the dryer.

Feed your face:

Yes, you can eat your way to a prettier face, said Lona Sandon, an assistant professor of clinical nutrition at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Consume omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin C and vitamin A to build healthy collagen and repair sun damage. You can take capsules (in doses recommended by your physician) or find vitamin C in oranges, pineapple, grapefruit, tomato, bell peppers, kiwi and strawberries; vitamin A in carrots, sweet potatoes, apricots, red peppers, spinach, grapefruit, watermelon and asparagus; and



MCT
For many women over 40, their best feature is their face, and they may want to downplay their hips, thighs and rear.

omega-3 fatty acids in salmon, tuna, walnuts and flaxseed oil.

Just watch the sweets—Keehan said skin may benefit from a low-sugar diet in light of a possible link between increased insulin levels and acne, suggested by a study in Experimental Dermatology.

■■■

HAIR Beat the heat:

Keeping the hair moist boosts its health and glow, but that can be a tall order for those walking around in the heat, said Larry Bates, department chair of cosmetology at Remington College in Garland, Texas. So use a hydrating and/or moisturizing conditioner, preferably with sunscreen, that matches your shampoo with complementary ingredients. Even if you're balding, you can benefit from a moisturizing conditioner on the scalp, he says. He also recommends using moisturizing sprays after you dry your hair, and wearing a hat.

■■■

EYES Eat your spinach:

Also your romaine lettuce, kale, asparagus and broccoli, said Dr. G. Philip Matthews, an ophthalmologist and retinologist with Texas Health Physicians Group in North Dallas and Fort Worth.

Matthews recommends a daily dose of Ocuvite Adult 50+, which is available in most drugstores, as a way of slowing

down macular degeneration, an age-related medical condition that hits those 50 and older with retinal damage and a resulting loss of vision in the macula, or the center of the visual field.

Ocuvite Adult 50+ includes vitamins C and E, lutein, zeaxanthin, zinc, copper and omega-3 fatty acids, which support healthy retinal function. While this combination won't prevent or cure the disease, it can slow it down and increase the odds of people enjoying good sight in their 70s and beyond, Matthews said, which is why he takes it himself.

Don't it make your brown eyes blue?

It's not a problem if you want to make your brown eyes blue or green or even vampire gold. That won't hurt you, Matthews said. What you shouldn't do is wear any set of contact lenses for too long. As many as 46 percent of Americans wear lenses longer than suggested, an increase from 2011, and only 1 in 5 people replace their daily disposable contacts daily, according to the American Optometric Association's 2012 American Eye-Q survey.

Whether your contact lenses are soft or hard, regular or extended wear, you should never sleep in them, he said. The No. 1 reason people go to the emergency room for eye problems is wearing lenses too long. That can result in a lack of oxygen to the eyes, which heightens your risk of an eye infection, irritation or a scratched cornea and, in the worst cases, blindness. So keep

those eyeglasses handy and give your eyes a break as often as you can.

■■■

TEETH

Straighten up and keep it light: If your teeth are not quite straight because they've moved with age or because you stopped wearing those retainers you got when you were a teen, Invisalign can get your teeth back in alignment with clear, barely noticeable aligners. Once only available in orthodontist offices, you can now get them through dentists who have received training in the method. The customized procedure works better for simple adult cases rather than complex ones (kids can by definition be complex since their mouths are growing and changing), said Dr. Kirk Kooker, a family and restorative dentist in private practice in Plano, Texas. As a bonus, straight teeth often lead to healthier teeth because they are easier to clean without places for food to get trapped, he said.

Those interested in getting their teeth whitened can cut costs by asking if their dentist will agree to use the last set of the Invisalign series of clear, customized BPA-free aligners as whitening trays. That can bring the cost of brightening your smile from as much as \$400-\$800 down to \$50 to \$100. Just don't try bleaching teeth without consulting a dentist, as some whiteners may cause tooth sensitivity, irritation of the gums and other problems.

Away, decay!

While fluoride remains a top recommendation by experts to prevent cavities, dentists are also excited about amorphous calcium phosphate, a product that helps remineralize enamel for adults and kids with a high incidence of decay. You can get MI Paste without fluoride and MI Paste Plus with fluoride that you apply to the teeth using a custom-made tray that requires a dentist's prescription and a less-concentrated, over-the-counter version in certain commercial toothpastes.

Amorphous calcium phosphate is made of calcium and phosphate, the building blocks of the teeth, and restores the mineral balance, strengthens teeth enamel that can be damaged by dental bleaching or professional dental cleaning, reduces sensitivity and aids in the prevention of cavities. It's not for everyone, though; MI Paste is not recommended for dialysis patients or those with a milk-protein allergy or sensitivity to benzoate preservatives. In addition, MI Paste Plus is not recommended for children less than 6 years old.

Chew on this:

Gum usually gets a bad rap from dentists, unless it has xylitol, a nonfermentable sugar alcohol. Xylitol not only helps remineralize the enamel that protects the teeth, it inhibits the growth of the bacteria that erodes it. Kooker recommends chewing over-the-counter gum with xylitol or sucking on lozenges with xylitol after meals, but no more than a few times a day, ideally right after you eat. That's because xylitol can cause gastrointestinal problems for some people if they use it in excess.

Original Iwo Jima monument unsold at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A long-forgotten World War II statue of the famous flag-raising at Iwo Jima that had been expected to sell for as much as \$1.8 million was passed on by bidders in an auction on Friday.

Bidding for the 12 1/2-foot (3.8-meter)-tall sculpture of the 1945 flag-raising reached as high as \$950,000, below the undisclosed minimum sales price, Bonhams auction house said.

"We're a little disappointed with what happened with the sculpture," Bonhams Maritime Art Department sales specialist Gregg K. Dietrich said.

Three potential buyers placed competing bids for four or five minutes, Dietrich said.

The sculpture's owner, military historian and collector Rodney Hilton Brown, did not wish to discuss the results of the auction.

Dietrich said prospective buyers could purchase the sculpture through Bonhams, which will negotiate a price on the seller's behalf.

History buffs have fawned over the sculpture, a miniature of the familiar 32-foot (9.75-



The original 12 1/2-foot (4 meter) cast stone version of Felix de Weldon's iconic statue depicting soldiers raising the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima is on display, Friday, Feb. 22, 2013.

meter)-tall bronze Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. That sculpture, designed by Felix de Weldon, was patterned after a Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press image of the Feb. 23, 1945, flag-raising by Marines and a Navy Corpsman on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi.

The smaller sculpture was largely forgotten about for more than four decades after de Weldon placed it in the back of his studio, covering it with a tarp. That's where Brown found it in 1990 while researching a book on de Weldon. It was in desperate need of restoration.

Brown bought the 5-ton mon-

ument, paying for it with cash and two peculiar collectors' items: a Stradivarius violin and a silver Newport yachting trophy from the 1920s.

In 1995, Brown presented a restored version of the statue to the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

History buffs have fawned over the sculpture, a miniature of the familiar 32-foot (9.75-

Brown bought the 5-ton mon-

Sunday's ceremony.

Oscar.com also offers other behind-the-scenes interactive features, including various backstage camera perspectives and a new live blog that aggregates the show's presence across social media. It will track the traffic on whatever makes a splash, like Angelina Jolie's right leg did last year.

The academy wants to make its second-screen experience just as rich as its primary one.

"Social media is now mainstream," said Christina Kouneili, chief marketing officer for the academy.

"We're not doing social media to reach out to young kids,"

Affleck said in a statement Friday night that he thought his issue with Taylor had been resolved.

"I admire Ken very much for his role in rescuing the six houseguests. I consider him a hero. In light of my many conversations as well as a change to an end card that Ken requested I am surprised that Ken continues to take issue with the film," Affleck said in the statement. "I spoke to him recently when he asked me to narrate a documentary he is prominently featured in and yet he didn't mention any lingering concerns. I agreed to do it and I look forward to seeing Ken at the recording."

Taylor became a hero in Canada and the United States afterward. He felt the role that he and other Canadians played in helping the Americans to freedom was minimized in "Argo."

"In general it makes it seem like the Canadians were just along for the ride. The Canadians were brave. Period," Taylor said.

Affleck's thriller is widely expected to win the best-picture trophy. Two other high-profile best-picture nominees this year, Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Thirty" and Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," have also been criticized for their portrayal of some factual issues.

Oscars expand social media outreach for 85th show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is encouraging celebrities to tweet during the Oscars.

The film organization has expanded its digital outreach for the 85th Academy Awards with a new feature that lets stars to snap photos of themselves backstage during Sunday's ceremony and instantly post them online.

What Twitter calls a "Magic Mirror" will take photo-booth-style pictures of participating stars in the green room and send them out on the academy's official Twitter account. Organizers expect multiple celebrity mash-ups.

The backstage green room is

Ex-Canada ambassador slighted by Affleck's "Argo"

TORONTO (AP)—The former Canadian ambassador to Iran who protected Americans at great personal risk during the 1979 Iran hostage crisis says it will reflect poorly on Ben Affleck if he doesn't say a few words about Canada's role should the director's film "Argo" win the Oscar for best picture Sunday.

But Ken Taylor—who said he feels slighted by the movie because it makes Canada look like a meek observer to CIA heroics in the rescue of six U.S. Embassy staff members caught in the crisis—is not expecting it.

"I would hope he would. If he doesn't then it's a further reflection," Taylor told The Associated Press. But the 78-year-old Taylor added that given what's happened in the last few months, "I'm not necessarily anticipating anything."

Taylor kept the Americans hidden at his residence and the

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Adele, 'Les Misérables' cast sing on Oscar stage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was an extra starry, musical day at the Dolby Theatre as Adele took the stage first Friday, followed by the cast of "Les Misérables," singing together of the first time.

Oscar nominees Hugh Jackman and Anne Hathaway, along with co-stars Russell Crowe, Amanda Seyfried, Helena Bonham-Carter, Sasha Baron-Cohen, Eddie Redmayne, Aaron Tveit and Samantha Barks rehearsed their performances on the Oscar stage. They were backed by members of the musical's stage productions from London and Broadway.

"Les Misérables" director Tom Hooper sat in the front row of the theater as his cast sang.

Moments earlier, Adele dazzled the tiny audience of show workers with her performance of the James Bond theme "Skyfall."

"I need a lot more reverberation," she said after her first run. "You might need to get a new reverberation machine."

The 24-year-old multiple Grammy winner arrived wearing a black tunic, black leggings and flats, with no make-



Adele

up and her hair in a ponytail.

"I'm going to have very high heels on the night, guys," she announced from the microphone, sipping tea between verses.

"Do you need the dresses?" she asked, and a team of stylists brought out the gowns Adele is considering for her Oscar performance.

The dress producers favored? "It's very heavy—I mean I struggle to stand in it," Adele said. "Come and feel how heavy it is, so you don't think I'm a wimp!"

She performed her Oscar-nominated song five times before leaving the theater. "It's been good, yeah?" she asked producer Neil Meron, who nodded in approval.

Just after Adele wrapped, the star-studded "Les Misérables" cast took the stage. Hathaway chatted with Bonham-Carter as Jackman sang a capella. Then Hathaway checked her microphone with a quick verse.

"Ooh, that was flat," she said.

The entire cast assembled for a final run-through when Jackman spontaneously began singing "My Bonny Lies over the Ocean."

In Loving Memory of
Jose Santos Jr.
Lovingly known as "Pepe"
 March 5, 1930 - February 20, 2013

Our Beloved Tatay...
A most beautiful memory, dearer than gold,
Of a Father whose worth can never be told,
There's a place in our hearts no one can fill,
We miss you, Tatay and always will.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayer,
Guide our Tatay with most tender care,
Love him in heaven as we did at home,
The Dearest Father this world could hold.

His memories will live forever in the hearts of his:
Wife: Aurelia 'Auring' Santos
Children and Families:
 Miriam and Nathan Forrester
 Helen and Moises Castillo (Jett Kevin & Susan, Jac Jasmin, Dave Nicolas 'Biboy')
 Jojo and Lynn Santos (Joshua Santos)
 Joanne and Bernard Paraiso (Joanie, Joseph and Brianna Mae Paraiso)

 Nightly Rosary is offered at 7:30 pm at the Santos' Residence, Baranda Lane, San Vicente.

 Memorial Services will be on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Viewing and last respects may be paid beginning at 8am, and our Holy Mass offering at 11am.

 Private cremation will be in Guam on March 2, 2013.

 Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.
Aurelia "Auring" Santos, Children & Families

Razzies put bite on 'Twilight' as worst picture

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The "Twilight" team finally has earned some love—or loathing—from Team Razzies.

"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2" was picked as last year's worst picture Saturday by the Razzies, an Academy Awards spoof that hands out prizes for Hollywood's lousiest movies on the eve of the Oscars.

The finale to the blockbuster supernatural romance dominated the Razzies with seven awards, including worst actress for Kristen Stewart, supporting actor for Taylor Lautner, director for Bill Condon and worst screen couple for Lautner and child co-star Mackenzie Foy.

Adam Sandler was named worst actor for the raunchy comedy "That's My Boy," his second-straight win after 2011's "Jack and Jill," which swept all 10 Razzie categories a year ago. Pop singer Rihanna won worst

supporting actress for the action dud "Battleship."

"Twilight" movies had been well represented in Razzie nomi-

nations over the years but had not won any key awards there. Razzie voters joke that as with "The Lord of the Rings" finale

winning best picture at the Academy Awards, they were waiting for the last "Twilight" flick on which to heap their scorn.



AP

This undated file photo provided by Summit Entertainment shows, from left, Judith Shekoni, Tracey Heggins, Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Christian Camargo, Peter Facinelli and Casey LaBow in a scene from the film "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2."

'Silver Linings' leads Spirit Awards with 4 prizes

SANTA MONICA, California (AP)—The oddball romance "Silver Linings Playbook" was named best picture Saturday at the Spirit Awards honoring independent film, Hollywood's last pre-game show before the Academy Awards.

"Silver Linings Playbook" led with four wins, including best actress for Jennifer Lawrence and director and screenplay for David O. Russell.

Lawrence is the best-actress favorite at Sunday's Oscars for her role as a young widow in a shaky new relationship with a man fresh from a mental hospital.

"The Sessions" earned two acting prizes, for John Hawkes as a man in an iron lung hoping to lose his virginity and Helen Hunt as the sexual surrogate helping him through it.

The award for best supporting actor went to Matthew McConaughey as a flamboyant stripper in "Magic Mike."

MC Hammer: 'Not bitter' about arrest in US

DUBLIN, California (AP)—MC Hammer suggests he was a victim of racial profiling when he was stopped and arrested by police in the Northern California city of Dublin.

The '90s rap star tweeted on Saturday that an officer approached him in his car and asked, "Are you on pa-

role or probation?"

He says that as he handed over his ID, the officer reached inside the car and tried to pull him out.

Dublin police Lt. Herb Walters told the Oakland Tribune that Hammer, who was born Stanley Burrell, was arrested Thursday for investigation of

obstructing an officer in the performance of their duties and resisting an officer.

He declined to comment to KTVU about Hammer's version of the arrest.

Hammer tweeted that he wasn't bitter and considered what happened "a teachable moment."

French actor Depardieu gets Russian home address

MOSCOW (AP)—French actor Gerard Depardieu got a new permanent address in Russia—1 Democracy Street—on Saturday, adding a final touch to his quest to get Russian citizenship.

After receiving his Russian passport from President Vladimir Putin last month, Depardieu had it stamped with the new address in Saransk, a city of 300,000 about

640 kilometers (400 miles) east of Moscow.

The actor has been at the center of a heated debate over tax exiles as France's Socialist government proposes a hefty tax on the rich, but he has denied that he accepted the passport to escape the taxman.

Saransk is the provincial capital of the Mordovia region, home to a sprawl-

ing web of Soviet-era prison camps, where one of the members of the Pussy Riot band is serving her two-year sentence for an irreverent "punk prayer" against Putin.

He said at the ceremony that he appreciated the symbolism of his new address.

"I want to be an ambassador of democracy to the world," he said, according to Russia Today television, which quoted him as saying that "Russia is a country with a great democracy."



Depardieu

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

US judge grants Jermaine Jackson name change

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jermaine Jackson has a new, brighter surname—Jacksun. A Los Angeles judge approved the change to singer's name Friday. The 58-year-old, who shared lead singing duties with his younger brother Michael in the Jackson 5, did not appear in court. He sought the name change for "artistic reasons" and says it has nothing to do with a recent rift in his family over the care of Michael Jackson's children and family matriarch Katherine Jackson. His attorney Bret D. Lewis says Jacksun is in Europe performing with his brothers and told

him that he was sure it was "a sunny day in California." Lewis says he doesn't know whether Jacksun will elaborate on the creative reasons for the change.

Amour, Argo win acclaim at French film awards

PARIS (AP)—"Amour" and "Argo" are taking home prestigious prizes—and Kevin Costner may be taking home a horse—after a French film award ceremony. The Cesar awards on Friday night reflected excitement and emotion ahead of the Oscars on Sunday. But they had a decidedly French touch, replete with references to high taxes. The story of a woman's Alzheimer's and her

husband's devotion, Michael Haneke's "Amour" won best film, best director—and best actress and actor prizes for its octogenarian stars, Emmanuelle Riva and Jean-Louis Trintignant. "Argo," about Americans taken hostage in Iran, won the best foreign film award. Costner said "merci" over and over again for a lifetime achievement award. He was even offered a horse, amid jokes about a horse meat scandal engulfing Europe.

Actor Cromwell faces charge for US protest

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP)—Actor James Cromwell has been charged with a civil ordinance violation for allegedly disrupting a university meeting

in Madison to protest animal testing. The 73-year-old actor and 27-year-old activist Jeremy Beckham were charged Friday with disorderly conduct for the Feb. 7 protest at a University of Wisconsin Board of Regents meeting. The violations are not criminal charges but carry fines of up to \$1,000. The two held large signs showing a cat with metal implanted in its head at a UW-Madison lab, while shouting about the treatment of cats. The Wisconsin State Journal reports the two are scheduled to appear in court March 25. Cromwell

was nominated for an Academy Award for the 1995 film "Babe." Other credits include "L.A. Confidential," "The Green Mile" and "The Artist."

Loving grandfather is hurt by sudden silent treatment

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My two adult granddaughters have rejected me, their doting grandfather. Their father gave me this explanation: "They are uncomfortable with the way you rub their shoulders and necks."

These girls and both parents have misinterpreted my innocent expressions of affection, which haven't changed since the girls were little. The only change is in their perception of my actions.

I am devastated. I asked twice to meet with these family members to discuss their concerns. It has been three months; no meeting time has been offered. There has been no contact, and neither girl has called me for any reason this year.

I can't just stop loving those with whom I have forged a 20-year bond of affection. How can this rupture be repaired?

GRIEVING GRANDDAD



Dear Abby

DEAR GRIEVING GRANDDAD: Clearly, there is a need for some professional mediation here, provided your granddaughters and their parents are willing. If your touches have been regarded as inappropriate, you should have been warned about it years ago. Obviously something has made your granddaughters uncomfortable, and the rupture won't heal until it can be discussed openly.

DEAR ABBY: Lately I have noticed that people are bringing their dogs shopping with them. I'm not talking about service dogs, but pets.

The other day, a woman brought her dog into the grocery store. While I'll admit the little thing looked cute sitting in the shopping cart, someone else's food will be in that cart next, and who knows where that dog's feet have been?

Why does management allow this? I'm willing to bet money that if I were to bring my pit bull, "Bruiser," inside the grocery store with me, I'd be stopped immediately. Talk about a double standard. I welcome your comments.

ASKANCE IN POWAY, CALIF.

DEAR ASKANCE: You should speak to the store manager and ask why it was permitted, because I was under the impression that health laws do not permit canines inside establishments that sell food -- unless they are service dogs. "Bruiser" might be unwelcome not because of his size, but because there is concern about the breed's reputation.

DEAR ABBY: I am responding to your answer to "Lost, Alone and Worried in Urbana, Ill." (Dec. 26), the young girl who is being made to teach her younger, learning-disabled brother how to read. You were right in advising her to talk to her school counselor. However, you should have emphasized strongly to her that it is a MUST.

The school counselor is part of a guidance team that evaluates students with learning differences and strategizes ways to support the student and family. The parents are part of the team and attend meetings requested by the teacher, counselor or the parents themselves. All conversations are confidential.

This may help the sister understand that she will not be blamed for anything. She is in a difficult position, and you were right to suppose that the parents may be frustrated and looking for help. It may be exactly what this family needs to get back on track.

LOUISE B., ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR

DEAR LOUISE B.: I appreciate your input, and I hope the girl who wrote sees your letter.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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S P O R T S

Grief besets family of Pistorius' slain girlfriend

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS**JOHANNESBURG** (AP) —

Far from the courtroom drama that has gripped South Africa, the family of Oscar Pistorius' slain girlfriend has struggled with its own private deluge of grief, frustration and bewilderment.

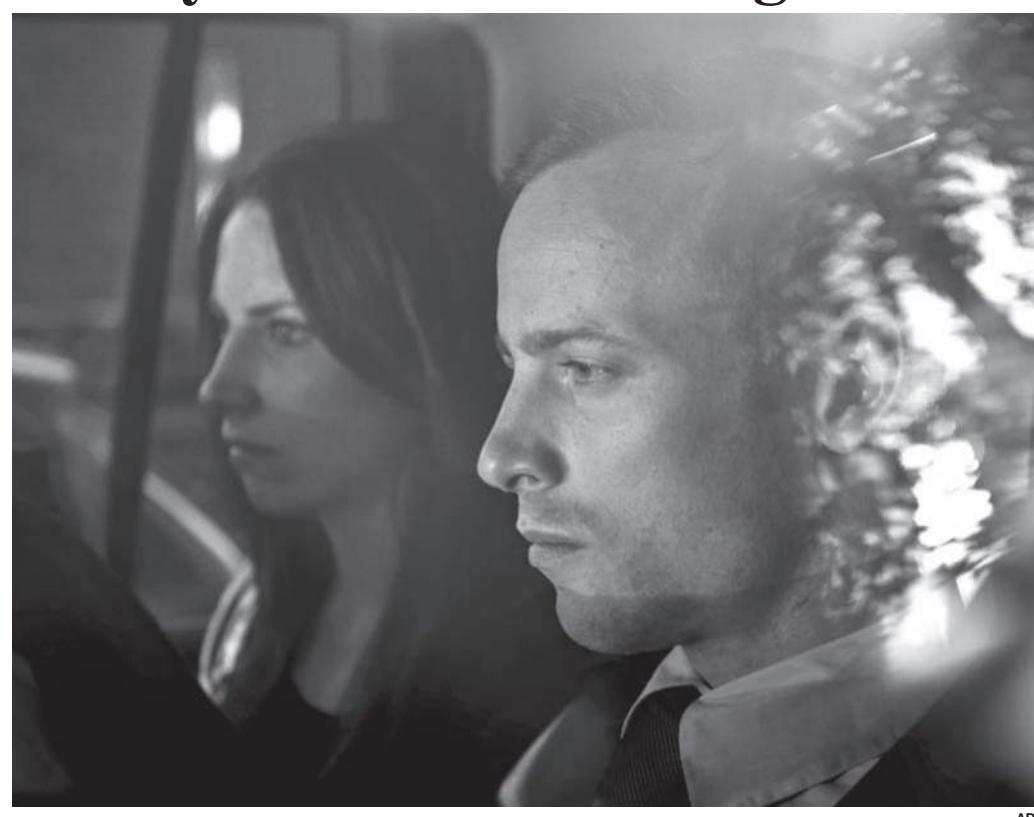
The victim's relatives also harbor misgivings about efforts by the Olympian's family to reach out to them with condolences.

Pistorius, meanwhile, spent Saturday at his uncle's home in an affluent suburb of Pretoria, the South African capital, after a judge released him on bail following days of testimony that transfixed South Africa and much of the world. He was charged with premeditated murder in the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in the early hours of Valentine's Day, but the athlete says he killed her accidentally, opening fire after mistaking her for an intruder in his home.

"We are extremely thankful that Oscar is now home," his uncle, Arnold Pistorius, said in a statement that also acknowledged the law must run its course. "What happened has changed our lives irrevocably."

The Pistorius family took steps to lower its profile on social media after someone hacked into the Twitter account of his older brother, Carl, family spokesman Janine Hills said. "Carl did not tweet this afternoon, out of respect to Oscar and Reeva," Hills said in a statement. "We are busy cancelling all the social media sites for both Oscar's brother and his sister."

Mike Steenkamp, Reeva's uncle, told The Associated Press that the family of the double-amputee athlete initially did not send condolences or try to contact the bereaved parents, but had since sought to reach out in what he described as a poorly timed way. After Pistorius was released on bail in what amounted to a victory



Olympic athlete Oscar Pistorius, right, and his sister Aimee, left, are driven to a relatives home in Pretoria, South Africa, Friday, Feb. 22, 2013.

for the defense, Arnold Pistorius said the athlete's family was relieved but also in mourning "with the family" of Reeva Steenkamp.

"Everybody wants to jump up with joy," Mike Steenkamp said, speculating on the mood of Pistorius' family after the judge's decision. "I think it was just done in the wrong context, completely."

A South African newspaper, the Afrikaans-language Beeld, quoted the mother of Reeva Steenkamp, a 29-year-old model, law school graduate and participant in a television reality show, as saying the family had received a bouquet of flowers and a card from the Pistorius family.

"Yes, but what does it mean? Nothing," June Steenkamp said, according to the Saturday edition of Beeld. She also said Pistorius' family, including sister Aimee, a somber presence on the bench behind the Olympian during his court hearings in the past week, must be "devastated" and had done nothing wrong.

"They are not to blame," June Steenkamp said. Accord-

ing to Beeld, she said she had hoped to plan a wedding for her daughter one day.

In an affidavit, 26-year-old Oscar Pistorius said he was "absolutely mortified" by the death of "my beloved Reeva," and he frequently sobbed in court during the several days during which his bail application was considered. However, prosecutor Gerrie Nel, suggested in a scathing criticism that Pistorius was actually distraught because his vaunted career was now in peril and he was in grave trouble with the law.

"It doesn't matter how much money he has and how good his legal team is, he will have to live with his conscience if he allows his legal team to lie for him," Barry Steenkamp, Reeva's father, told Beeld.

"But if he is telling the truth, then perhaps I can forgive him one day," the father said. "If it didn't happen the way he said it did, he must suffer, and he will suffer ... only he knows."

Barry Steenkamp suffered "heavy trauma" at the loss of his daughter and his remarks to the newspaper partly reflect

how he is working through it, said his brother, Mike Steenkamp.

Steenkamp was cremated in a funeral ceremony on Feb. 19 in her family's hometown of Port Elizabeth on South Africa's southern coast. Mike Steenkamp delivered a statement about the family's grief to television cameras, at one point breaking down in tears.

The three-story house where Pistorius is staying with his aunt and uncle lies on a hill with a view of Pretoria. It has a large swimming pool and an immaculate garden.

Pistorius was born without fibula bones due to a congenital defect and had his legs amputated at 11 months. He has run on carbon-fiber blades and was originally banned from competing against able-bodied peers because many argued that his blades gave him an unfair advantage. He was later cleared to compete. He is a multiple Paralympic medalist, but he failed to win a medal at the London Olympics, where he ran in the 400 meter race and on South Africa's 4x400 relay team.

Schilling helped end Boston's 86-year championship drought—the "Curse of the Bambino"—by pitching on an ankle that had been sutured more than once through the postseason. Pitching with a damaged tendon resulted in bleeding through the sock. Still, Schilling allowed only a run in six innings.

The right-hander made \$114 million over an 18-year career with Baltimore, Houston, Philadelphia, Arizona and Boston but defaulted on loan payments to the state of Rhode Island.

Schilling's company was lured away from Massachusetts to Providence after Rhode Is-

Schilling's bloody sock from WS goes for \$92,613

N E W
Y O R K
(A P) —

A bloody sock worn by Curt Schilling while pitching for the Boston Red Sox in Game 2 of the 2004 World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals was sold for \$92,613 at a live auction on Saturday night at the Fletcher-Sinclair Mansion.

Schilling had loaned his sock to the National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum but when his Rhode Island-based video game company "38 Studios" went bankrupt, he decided to sell the sock that was bloodied as he pitched on an injured ankle.

Bidding began at \$25,000 several weeks ago. Texas-based Heritage Auctions anticipated it would get more than \$100,000.

An anonymous bidder submitted the winning bid.

"It's a one of a kind item, so it's really tough to gauge what kind of interest you're going to get," Chris Ivy, director of Sports Auctions for Heritage Auctions said. "Sometimes you catch lightning in a bottle where a piece will take off like the Buckner ball. This particular time, it's the first time we sold a sock with blood on it so it's very hard to gauge what kind of final number it's going to end up."

land's economic development agency in 2010 approved a \$75 million loan guarantee. The company ran out of money less than two years later and filed for bankruptcy. Rhode Island is facing a tab of approximately \$100 million related to the deal, including interest, and the agency is suing Schilling and others, saying it was misled.

Even with the large sale price, Rhode Island is not getting the proceeds from the sale. Schilling listed the sock as bank collateral in a filing in Massachusetts after investing roughly \$50 million in the company and losing all his baseball earnings.

Dozens hurt after Daytona crash debris hits stands

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—At least 33 fans were injured Saturday during a NASCAR race when a car flew into the fence at Daytona International Speedway, hurling a tire and large pieces of debris into the stands.

The accident happened on the last lap of the second-tier Nationwide Series race on the eve of Sunday's Daytona 500, which officials said would go on as scheduled.

The crash began as the field approached the checkered flag and leader Regan Smith attempted to block Brad Keselowski to preserve the win. That triggered a chain reaction, and rookie Kyle Larson hit the cars in front of him and went airborne into the fence.

The entire front end was sheared off Larson's car, and his burning engine wedged through a gaping hole in the fence. Chunks of debris from the car were thrown into the stands, including a tire that cleared the top of the fence and landed midway up the spectator section closest to the track.

The 20-year-old Larson stood in shock several yards away from his car as fans in the stands waved frantically for help. Smoke from the burning engine briefly clouded the area, and emergency vehicles descended on the scene.

Ambulance sirens could be heard wailing behind the grandstands at a time the race winner would typically be doing celebratory burnouts.

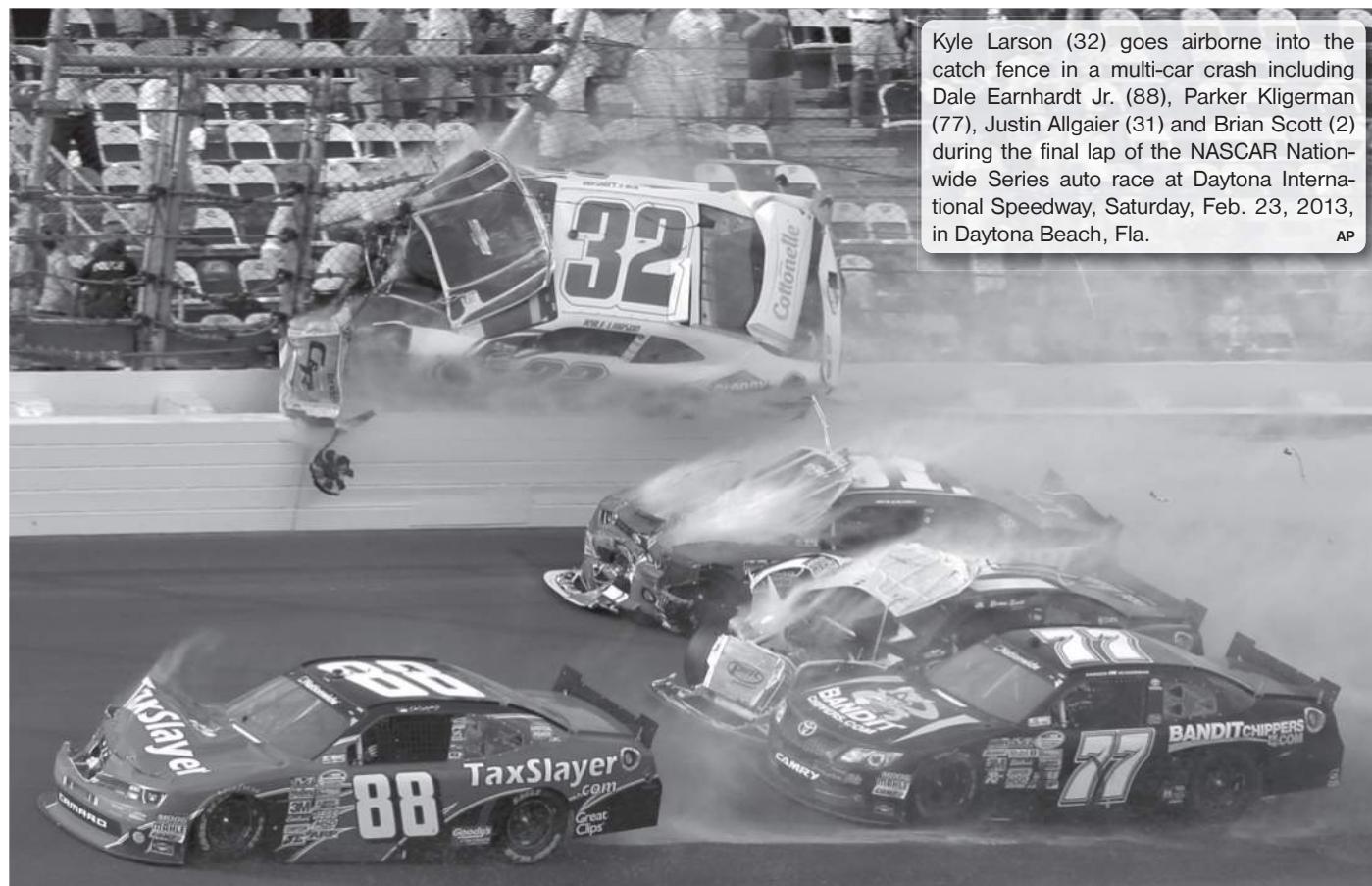
"It was freaky. When I looked to my right, the accident happened," said Rick Harpster of Orange Park, Fla., who had a bird's-eye view of the wreck. "I looked over and I saw a tire fly straight over the fence into the stands, but after that I didn't see anything else. That was the worst thing I have seen, seeing that tire fly into the stands. I knew it was going to be severe."

Shannan Devine, of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., was sitting about 250 feet away from where the car smashed into the fence and could see plumes of smoke directly in front of her.

"I didn't know if there was a car on top of people. I didn't know what to think. I'm an emotional person and I immediately started to cry. It was very scary. Absolutely scary. I love the speed of the sport. But it's so dangerous," said Devine who was planning to attend her second Daytona 500.

She said many fans got in the way of rescue efforts by trying to take pictures and videos, even jumping over fencing in hopes of getting closer to the scene.

Speedway President Joie Chitwood said 14 fans were treated on site, and 14 others were taken to hospitals. Chitwood didn't give any updates on their conditions. Local officials said 19 fans were taken to neighboring hospitals, including two who were in critical condition but were



Kyle Larson (32) goes airborne into the catch fence in a multi-car crash including Dale Earnhardt Jr. (88), Parker Kligerman (77), Justin Allgaier (31) and Brian Scott (2) during the final lap of the NASCAR Nationwide Series auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, in Daytona Beach, Fla. AP

later upgraded to stable.

The accident happened the day before the Sprint Cup Series season-opening Daytona 500—NASCAR's version of the Super Bowl. Daytona workers could be seen repairing the large section of fence where Larson hit, as well as the wall that was damaged in the accident.

"First and foremost our thoughts and prayers are with our race fans," Chitwood said. "Following the incident we responded appropriately according to our safety protocols, and had emergency medical personnel at the incident immediately.

"We're in the process of repairing the facility and will be ready to go racing tomorrow."

As emergency workers tended to injured fans and ambulance sirens wailed in the background, a somber Tony Stewart skipped the traditional post-race victory celebration.

Stewart, who won for the 19th time at Daytona and seventh time in the last nine season-opening Nationwide races, was in no mood to celebrate.

"The important thing is what is going on on the frontstretch right now," said Stewart, the three-time NASCAR champion. "We've always known, and since racing started, this is a dangerous sport. But it's hard. We assume that risk, but it's hard when the fans get caught up in it."

"So as much as we want to celebrate right now and as much as this is a big deal to us, I'm more worried about the drivers and the fans that are in the stands right now because that was ... I could see it all in my mirror, and it didn't look good from where I was at."

The accident spread into the upper deck and emergency crews treated fans on both levels. There were five stretchers that appeared to be carrying fans out, and a helicopter flew overhead. A forklift was used to pluck Larson's engine out of the fence.

"It's a violent wreck. Just seeing the carnage on the racetrack, it's truly unbelievable," driver Justin Allgaier said.

It was a chaotic finish to a race that was stopped for nearly 20 minutes five laps from the finish by a 13-car accident that sent driver Michael Annett to a hospital, where his Richard Petty Motorsports team said he would be held overnight with bruising to his chest.

The race resumed with three laps to go, and the final accident occurred with Smith trying to hold off Keselowski through the final turn.

"I tried to throw a block. It's Daytona, you want to go for the win here," Smith said. "I don't know how you can play it any different other than concede second place, and I wasn't willing to do that today. Our job is to put them in position to win, and it was, and it didn't work out."

As the cars began wrecking all around Smith and Keselowski, Stewart slid through for

the win, but Larson plowed into Keselowski and his car was sent airborne into the fence. When Larson's car came to a stop, it was missing its entire front end. The 20-year-old, who made his Daytona debut this week, stood apparently stunned, hands on his hips, several feet away from his car, before finally making the mandatory trip to the care center.

He said his first thought was with the fans.

"I hope all the fans are OK and all the drivers are all right," Larson said. "I took a couple big hits there and saw my engine was gone. Just hope everybody's all right."

He said he was along for the ride in the last-lap accident.

"I was getting pushed from behind, I felt like, and by the time my spotter said lift or go low, it was too late," Larson said. "I was in the wreck and then felt like it was slowing down and I looked like I could see the ground. Had some flames come in the cockpit, but

luckily I was all right and could get out of the car quick."

It appeared fans were lined right along the fence when Larson's car sailed up and into it, but Chitwood indicated there was a buffer. He said there would be no changes to the seating before the Daytona 500.

"We don't anticipate moving any of our fans," Chitwood said. "We had our safety protocols in place. Our security maintained a buffer that separates the fans from the fencing area. With the fencing being prepared tonight to our safety protocols, we expect to go racing tomorrow with no changes."

Larson's car appeared to hit where the cross-over gate—a section that can be opened for people to travel back and forth from the infield to the grandstands—is located in the fence. Previous accidents in which drivers hit crossover gates were severe, but the gates were in the wall and not the fence for Mike Harmon's accident at Bristol in

2002 and Michael Waltrip's at the same track in 1990.

Still, NASCAR senior vice president Steve O'Donnell said it would be studied.

"I think we look at this after every incident," O'Donnell said. "We've learned in the past certain protocols put in place today are a result of prior incidents. Again, our initial evaluation is still ongoing. But it's certainly something we'll look at. If we can improve upon it, we'll certainly put that in play as soon as we can."

Larson had been scheduled to race his sprint car later Saturday night in Ocala, Fla., and even seemed restless to get there during the late stages of the Nationwide race. He pulled out of the event following the accident.

"Honestly, the race itself pales in comparison to the injuries sustained by the fans," said Chip Ganassi, the team owner who has Larson in his driver development program. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the fans that were injured as a result of the crash. As for Kyle, I am very happy that he is OK."

Keselowski watched a replay of the final accident, and said his first thoughts were with the fans. As for the accident, he agreed he tried to make a winning move and Smith tried to block.

"He felt like that's what he had to do, and that's his right. The chaos comes with it," Keselowski said. "I made the move and he blocked it, and the two of us got together and started the chain events that caused that wreck. First and foremost, just want to make sure everyone in the stands is OK and we're thinking about them."

Keselowski said the incident could cast a pall on the Daytona 500.

"I think until we know exactly the statuses of everyone involved, it's hard to lock yourself into the 500," Keselowski said. "Hopefully, we'll know soon and hopefully everyone's OK. And if that's the case, we'll start focusing on Sunday."

Poulter, Mahan on collision course at Match Play



MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Before the first shot of the Match Play Championship, and before the first snowfall, Hunter Mahan was asked for three players with the best reputation in match play.

Ian Poulter was on his list.

Now he gets to find out for himself.

Poulter again proved to be one tough customer Saturday when he beat Steve Stricker with one big putt after another, advancing to the semifinals and improving his record in match play around the world to 19-3-2 over the last four years.

Next up is Mahan, who is leaving his own mark at Dove Mountain. Mahan outlasted U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson in 18 holes, leaving

him two wins away from joining Tiger Woods as the only repeat winners of this World Golf Championship. Not only has Mahan won every match he has played—11 in a row—over the last two years, he now has gone 151 consecutive holes at the Match Play Championship without trailing.

Poulter is aiming for his second Match Play win in the last four years.

"I have so much respect for the guy and how he plays," Mahan said. "There's not one part of his game that really shines. He has a great short game and he's a great putter, but to me, his determination and his will is his greatest strength. He's never going to think he's out of a hole."

Not to be outdone, Matt Kuchar reached the semifinals for the second time in three

years with steady play, rarely taking himself out of position. That proved way too much for Robert Garrigus, who was 4 down through 10 holes and didn't make it beyond the 16th green.

Kuchar will play Jason Day of Australia, who won a tight match against Graeme McDowell in 18 holes.

The biggest stars in golf might be long gone. In their place are two guys who might be the best in match play over the last few years.

"I know it's not the top four in the world, probably what everyone was hoping for," Mahan said. "But there's been a lot of great golf played, a lot of great shot, a lot of great putts. There's a lot of great players."

Along with a perfect singles record in the Ryder Cup, Poul-

ter has won the WGC version of the Match Play Championship and the World Match Play Championship in Spain in 2011. He wasn't aware of his sterling record since 2010, nor did he sound terribly surprised.

"I'm pretty proud of it," he said. "Does it surprise me? I love match play."

That much is becoming abundantly clear. After he pulled away from Tim Clark of South Africa in the third round Saturday morning, he faced his toughest challenge yet in Stricker, who started his 46th birthday celebration by making eight birdies in a brilliantly played match against Scott Piercy in the third round.

Stricker holed a 30-foot putt on the final hole for the win, and then ran into someone who putted even better.

LeBron's triple-double lifts Heat over 76ers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—LeBron James had 16 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his 35th career triple-double and the Miami Heat cruised to their 10th straight win, 114-90 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Saturday night.

Dwyane Wade had 33 points, Mario Chalmers scored 14 and Chris Bosh added 13 to help the defending NBA champions improve to 39-14.

The Heat have a comfortable 5 1/2-game lead over Indiana in the Eastern Conference. They've won four in a row on the road, including impressive wins over Oklahoma City before the All-Star break and at Chicago on Thursday.

Jrue Holiday scored 21 points and Nick Young had 19 for Philadelphia, which continues to fall further behind in the playoff chase. The Sixers entered 3 1/2 games behind Milwaukee for the No. 8 spot in the East.

Clippers 107, Jazz 94

In Los Angeles, Caron Butler scored 21 points and Los Angeles rode a big third quarter to a victory over Utah, completing its first season sweep of the Jazz since 1978-79.

Blake Griffin and Lamar Odom added 18 points each, and DeAndre Jordan had 12 rebounds for the Pacific Division-leading Clippers, who have won six straight over Utah dating to last year.

Reserve Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 23 points, Paul Millsap added 19 and Al Jefferson 16 as their three-game winning streak ended. They also dropped to 10-19 on the road.

Los Angeles shot 51 percent two nights after losing to San Antonio by 26 points in its worst defeat of the season.

Pacers 90, Pistons 72

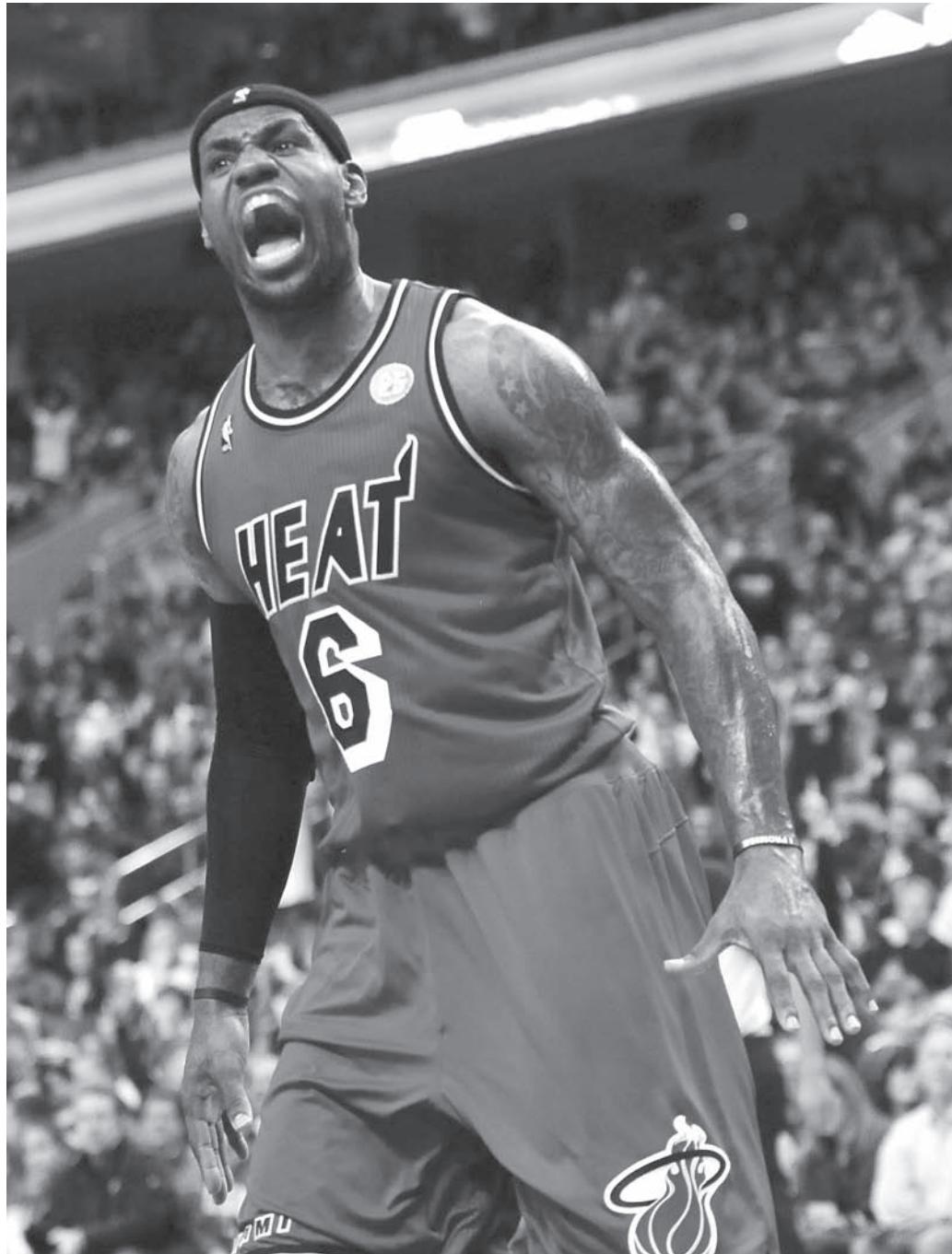
In Auburn Hills, Mich., David West scored 16 points and Paul George added a double-double to help Indiana Pacers easily beat Detroit for the second time in as many nights.

The Pacers won 114-82 Friday night in Indianapolis, and led by as many as 21 in the return leg. George finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds for Indiana, which had five players in double figures and got Danny Granger on the floor for the first time this season.

After trailing by as many as 43 in Indiana on Friday, the Pistons started the second game of the home-and-home set by missing 16 of their first 17 shots. Will Bynum led Detroit with 15 points before getting ejected for striking Tyler Hansbrough in the groin in the fourth quarter.

Nuggets 113, Bobcats 99

In Charlotte, NC, JaVale McGee had 17 points, including seven dunks, and Denver snapped a four-game road losing streak with a victory over Charlotte.



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) reacts after he scores on a dunk during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, in Philadelphia.

The Nuggets hadn't won on the road since Jan. 23.

Ty Lawson had nine of his 20 points in the final quarter and handed out five assists as the Nuggets broke open a close game early in the fourth with a flurry of fast-break points. Kenneth Faried finished with 15 points on 7-of-9 shooting, Corey Brewer had 14 points and Andre Iguodala chipped in with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Kemba Walker had 24 points on 9-of-14 shooting for the Bobcats.

Hawks 103, Bucks 102

In Milwaukee, Al Horford's hook shot with 5.9 seconds remaining lifted Atlanta to a victory over Milwaukee in a game that was close throughout.

Horford's shot came after a driving layup by Monta Ellis had given the Bucks a 102-101 lead with 10.8 seconds left.

Horford had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Jeff Teague also scored 23 and added nine assists, and Devin Harris contributed 21 points for Atlanta, which rallied from a late seven-point deficit.

Ersan Ilyasova had 19 points and newly-acquired J.J. Redick added 16 points and seven assists for Milwaukee. Larry Sanders had 12 points and 19 rebounds, one off his career high.

Cavaliers 118, Magic 94

In Orlando, Fla., Marreese Speights scored 18 points, Alonzo Gee added 17 and Cleveland used a big fourth quarter to run

past Orlando.

Kyrie Irving chipped in with 12 points and nine assists for the Cavaliers, who have won two straight overall and snapped a six-game losing streak in Orlando.

Arron Afflalo scored 16 points for the Magic in their first home game since a trade deadline deal last week that saw the departure of four players. Two of their three new additions, Tobias Harris and Beno Udrih, finished in double figures with 14 and 10 points, respectively. Orlando has lost five consecutive games and 28 of its last 31.

Wizards 105, Rockets 103

In Washington, Emeka Okafor had 17 points, 11 rebounds and made the go-ahead free throw with 5.2 seconds remaining to help Washington overcome a 3-point barrage for a win over Houston.

Bradley Beal scored 21 points, Trevor Ariza added 18, and John Wall had 12 points and 11 assists for the Wizards, who came back from a 17-point deficit for their second straight win. Washington scored 54 points in the paint and has won 10 of its 12 home games.

James Harden scored 27 points and Chandler Parsons had 24 for the Rockets, including five of Houston's 19 3-pointers. Houston attempted 46 3-pointers, the most in the NBA this season. The Rockets made 13 from beyond the arc in the first half, one off the NBA record.

he's moved on. "If I was embarrassed, I wouldn't be able to stand in front of you."

The only thing that really matters in Indy, though, is what team officials think. Te'o said in the two formal interviews he's had, with Green Bay and Houston, they have asked about the hoax. He has another 18 interviews left.

Will it hurt his draft position?

Former NFL executive Bill Polian, architect of four Super Bowl teams in Buffalo and two in Indianapolis, has been adamant that it won't, and coaches and general managers seem to agree.

Most say they are more concerned with the red flags of other players—drug use, alcohol abuse, academic woes and even criminal allegations—than they are with Te'o's tale.

"Somebody that's not truthful, that's big, to me. I'm a big fan of the 'Judge Judy' show. And when you lie in Judge Judy's courtroom, it's over. Your credibility is completely lost. You have no chance of winning that case," San Francisco coach Jim Harbaugh said Friday. "I learned that from her. It's very powerful, and true. Because if somebody does lie to you, how can you ever trust anything they ever say after that?"

Te'o doing tough balancing act at NFL combine



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Manti Te'o walked into a crowded room of reporters Saturday, took a breath and settled in for 15 minutes of NFL scouting combine history.

Again, the former Notre Dame linebacker explained how he had been duped into an Internet romance he had with a girlfriend he never met. He did his best to turn the page on an embarrassing chapter by talking football. This time, he even got to see it play out on live television 12 yards away—where three muted flat-screen monitors were in direct view of Te'o.

He answered every question with thoughtful deliberation and tried to provide clarity on a hoax that turned one of the nation's most inspirational college football players into the butt of national jokes.

"I cared for somebody. That's what I was taught to do ever since I was young. Somebody needs help, you help them out," Te'o said.

Later he added: "People doubted me because I took a while to come out. From our point of view, we wanted to let everything come out first, and

then let my side come out. The way we did it, I thought, worked best for me."

Te'o's news conference was the most anticipated event of the NFL's second-biggest offseason weekend, which brought the makeshift media room inside Lucas Oil Stadium to a virtual standstill—twice.

The too-good-to-be-true story began with Te'o's incredible performances after learning his grandmother and what he believed was his girlfriend had died within hours of one another in September. Te'o said it inspired him to play his best football all season, and it was so compelling that it helped turn Te'o into a Heisman Trophy contender as he was leading the Fighting Irish to an undefeated regular season and into the national championship game.

On Dec. 26, Te'o notified Notre Dame officials that he had received a call from his supposedly dead girlfriend's phone three weeks earlier.

The school investigated and on Jan. 16—after Deadspin.com broke the story of the fake girlfriend—athletic director Jack Swarbrick announced at a news conference that Te'o had been

duped. Ronaiah Tuiasosopo, 22, later said he created the online persona of Lennay Kekua, a nonexistent woman who Te'o said he fell in love with despite never meeting her in person.

Since then, Te'o had only done a few one-on-one interviews.

On Saturday all that changed as many of the 800 credentialed media members surrounded the podium in rows that went eight deep. Te'o wore a tie-died red-and-black workout shirt.

"It's pretty crazy," said Te'o, who has played most of his games on national television and was one of the most recognizable college players last season. "I've been in front of a few cameras before, but never as many as this."

Only two scenes from the combine over the past 15 years could even compare to what Te'o had to contend with Saturday.

The first came in 2004 when former Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett was allowed to participate in the combine after a court ruled he should be allowed to enter the draft after finishing high school only two years earlier. That decision was

later reversed.

The other time was 2010, when Heisman Trophy winner and two-time national champion Tim Tebow stepped to the podium in Indianapolis and everyone, including those listening to Packers coach Mike McCarthy, sprinted to the opposite end of the room for Tebow.

This was different.

When word leaked Te'o would speak at about noon, reporters immediately surrounded the podium. Over the next 25 minutes, rumors circulated that in a rare and possibly unprecedented move, Te'o's agent would speak from the podium. That did not happen. There also was speculation that Te'o might deliver an opening statement like the then-injured Michael Crabtree did in 2009 and Cam Newton did two years later.

That did not happen, either, though Te'o did make a closing statement in which he thanked his family, friends and fans for standing by him during this tumultuous month.

"It's definitely embarrassing. You walk into grocery stores and people give you double takes to see if they're staring at you," he said before explaining

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qualifier in Nepal next month.

"In the first month of our training, we practiced only twice a week and then it went to five times a week. Then in the last few months, we practice for six times a week. Every member worked hard during the training sessions and did their best in finding time to practice after their work to show commitment on the team," Noetzel added in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Thursday during a send-off party for the team.

Joining Noetzel on the CNMI Men's National Team are captains Joe Miller and Trey Dunn, John Joyner, Jireh Yobech, Timothy Tawani, Sean Perez, Ruselle and Raphael Zapanta, Jake Tiger Lee, Steve McKagan, Peter

Loken, Dan Westphal, Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, Yuki Adachi, Nick Swaim, Dae Won Jeon, Chris Nelson, and fellow goalie Evan Hunsberger.

Miller, who scored against Guam in the EAFF, is expected to lead the CNMI's attack and he hopes to deliver under pressure.

"It's a big challenge to score in this AFC event. It's a different playing field and I will do my best to help the team, as getting a result in Nepal will be a big boost in the CNMI's bid to become a full member of the AFC," Miller said.

Miller has at least six U18 teammates on the squad, including Joyner, who is also known for his ability to score and the latter lived up to expectations early when he made one of the CNMI Team's goals in their 2-0 win over Japan Soccer College in an exhibition game last Friday at the

Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Other U18 players on the squad are Yobech and Perez, who both said that if given enough playing time in Nepal, they will make the most out of it.

Also on the team are two newcomers—Jeon and Adachi.

"We picked up two new players in Dae Won Jeon and Yuki Adachi, so our defensive line is much stronger. Three off-island players—Barry, Knecht, and Swaim—are also back to strengthen the team," said Noetzel.

Majority of the CNMI Men's National Team left Saipan early Saturday morning and were joined in Manila by Barry, Knecht, and Swaim, who all came from the mainland. In Manila, the Commonwealth bets held the pro team Meralco Sparks to a scoreless draw with Noetzel making a

lot of saves. The CNMI strikers are now in Kathmandu, Nepal and will have about a week to acclimatize in the host nation where the lowest temperature in March could reach -1 degrees Celsius, while the average is 6 degree Celsius and the hottest is at 22.

Joining the squad in Nepal are head coach and former Olympian Luam Khen Koo and assistant coaches Chi Ming Tang and Ho Man Chen. Wesley M. Bogdan, Pamela Carhill, and team manager Norman del Rosario are also members of the CNMI delegation, which is headed by NMIFA president Jerry Tan.

"Joining the AFC event for the first time is a huge opportunity for a young association like the NMIFA. It will give the association a chance to prove that its program has shown significant improvement and its players can compete in a

high level tournament. We will be going for a positive result and hopefully comeback here to have another celebration," Koo said during a brief speech in last week's send-off party.

"We're setting our sights high and we're coming into the tournament with a positive attitude. We will try to achieve the best result we could get," Noetzel added.

Noetzel and company will be playing Nepal in their first game on March 2 at the Dashrath Stadium and then will collide against Palestine and Bangladesh on March 4 and 6, respectively.

The CNMI, Nepal, Palestine, and Bangladesh are in Group D of the qualifiers. Four other groups will have their separate competitions next month and the winner of each group and the two second best-placed teams in the qualifiers will get tickets to the 2014 AFC Challenge Cup, which will be held from March 8 to 23, 2014 in Maldives. The champion of the Challenge Cup will then qualify for the 2015 AFC Asian Cup where the zone's top-ranked Japan, North and South Korea, and Australia have already gained tickets.

ADOBO

From Page 28

dez and James Dela Cruz also had double figures, making 10 markers apiece.

Saturno's long-game brilliance started in the first period where he nailed 10 points to lift Adobo to a 25-18 lead. Adobo kept its distance against JWS at halftime, 41-37, with Saturno adding 6 more points and his four other teammates also lighting up the scoreboard.

White Capalad kept JWS in the game with his 14 markers in the first half, but was held to two field goals in the third period where both teams struggled on offense. However, Adobo retained the upper hand,

54-46, with Saturno tallying 5 more points and getting a little support from three other teammates, while only Capalad and Cecilio Bisana drilled at least one field goal each for JWS at the start of the second half.

Capalad kept on fighting for JWS, Saturno answered with rally-halting baskets, while Dela Cruz and Vertudez also made a pair to help Adobo's cause. Capalad led all scorers with his 31 markers.

CT Kings 84, SSFM 75

The CT Kings picked up their second straight win since Division B action resumed after downing SSFM.

Last Friday's match was SSFM's first since the division took a month-long break and the

loss was only its second in five matches, while the CT Kings have a better record with its 3-1 slate.

Syl Teregeyo and Preston Basa joined forces in the CT Kings' third victory, scoring 27 and 25 points, respectively. Two other CT Kings starters also nailed twin digits with Pete Lizama and Joe Acosta adding 12 markers apiece.

The CT Kings built an early double-digit lead and hung in there to hand SSFM's its second loss. Basa, Teregeyo, and Lizama combined for all of the CT Kings' 23 markers for their 12-point advantage in the first period, 23-11.

The CT Kings never looked back from thereon, as SSFM's failed to neutralize Basa and

Teregeyo in the last three quarters and the duo offset the 29-point explosion of Rocyl Ritual.

First Game

Adobo 73 – Saturno 28, Dela Cruz 10, Vertudez 10, Yap 9, Camacho 7, Mamaril 4, Aranda 4.

JWS 71 – Capalad 31, Bisana 13, Saplan 11, Daproza 7, Barrozo 4, Echavez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-18, 41-37, 54-46, 73-71.

CT Kings 84 – Teregeyo 27, Basa 25, Acosta 12, Lizama 12, Quizon 3.

SSFM 75 – Ritual 29, Galarse 18, Brennan 12, Dela Rosa 9, Tobias 5.

Scoring by quarters: 23-11, 44-31, 61-56, 84-75.

PETERKA

From Page 28

tures, and thanks that motivate us to keep going even when we feel like we have given all that we have. This award gives me hope that my efforts are bringing benefit beyond any recognition that I didn't plan to receive. Or maybe it would be better said to say, I don't do what I do for the recognition. I do what I do, because it's the right thing to do," she said.

The awardee added that it was through the help of the volunteers, sponsors, and other NMIVA officials that they were able to survive the challenges of the past season.

"Our biggest challenge in 2012 (as in all previous years) is figuring out who will be able to fit volunteering for various programs into their schedules. We have so many ideas that we want to execute, but only a few who are able to dedicate the time and resources. We managed to expand and offer beach volleyball clinics because coach Russ Quinn stepped up to take the lead and he has been able to recruit other coaches to help. Coach Mili Saiki is a driving force of vol-

leyball through the programs she leads at Saipan International School. Coaches Nick Gross, Tyce Mister, Heather Kennedy, Jennifer Douglas, Glen Smith, Kathy Winkfield, and Emi Quitugua are just few of the people who help drive the growth of our sport," the NMIVA head said.

"The second biggest challenge is communication with the community and getting participation. There are tons of activities always going on and our youth are often faced with having to choose one or another. We hope that we've made the choice easier by making our clinics and training development programs free to anyone who will dedicate themselves to our sport.

Peterka added that for MISO, NMIVA managed to provide provided free referee clinics and refresher courses for coaches and introduced a program for middle school mentors.

"We also began surveying for information about equipment needs and further coaching development programs for grades 6-12. We are extremely grateful to corporate partner Docomo Pacific for helping us with equipment for the beach in front of Fiesta. This investment pushed us toward the goals of creating the free beach clinic program," Peterka said.

Others challenges are securing financial aid and getting involved more in interscholastic competitions.

"We had hoped to have secured development funding in-kind assistance from FIVB/

AVC to have a full time executive director in order relieve some of the pressure of the day to day tasks and to allow us to move more fluently into our growth. Up to now, we haven't quite figured out how to do this, but we are still trying. Then, we have been working towards improving our relationship with MISO and attempting to work more closely with PSS," the NMIVA official said.

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These challenges and how to approach them are part of the 20-year vision that Peterka is developing for NMIVA and

with limited funding and human resources, she reiterated that volunteers' contribution is crucial in helping the association achieve its goals.

"Given that we are a non-profit organization and receive no development assistance from the CNMI government and do not presently have any long term corporate sponsor relationships, I am constantly challenged as to how to keep our volunteers motivated. Lacking an executive director (or secretary general), my approach has been to dedicate myself heart and soul to NMI Volleyball Association as a second job free of charge. I have worked closely with as many people who are willing to participate and asked that those people who want to see the sport grow, dedicate themselves as much as they can but without reason," she said.

"I promise them NMIVA support as well as my personal support. Last year, I believe that more people were able to see the vision, see the hard work required to achieve the vision and we enjoyed further cooperation from community partners such as MISO to keep moving toward the vision," Peterka said.

and followed it up with another strike 3:20 into the first half with a crafty rebound off the goalie. Her first goal was a beauty and given that she added the second goal quickly after breaking the ice, she was expected to do some more damage in the remaining hour of play or so.

However, KHS buttoned up on defense and kept her under wraps, though they were unable to get things going offensively.

Last Feb. 14, Veora Basa put her Ayuyus ahead, 1-0, 2:42 into the opening frame and she and a teammate each added a goal in the second half during the 40th and 64th minute.

In the Feb. 12 match, MHS 1's Lahaina Gatchalian found the back of the net 14:10 into the first half and teammate Clarisse Cayabyab provided some insurance later in the second half at the 46th minute.

Last Feb. 7 the Lady Rays' Marrielle Gariguez willed two goals in the first half during the 19th and 25th minute and answered an opposing goal by MHS 2's Elaine Enriquez from the 40-minute mark with a hat trick goal just three minutes after the ensuing kickoff.

On Feb. 5, MHS 1's Jeradine Castillo put her Dolphins in the driver seat just over five minutes after the opening whistle, at 5:17, and teammate Melody Johnson made it 3-0 with a pair of goals at the 11:30 and 16:34 mark of the first half.

Castillo added the cherry on top later in the closing period with her second goal in the 54th minute of regulation.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**NBA STANDINGS****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	32	20	.615	—
Brooklyn	33	23	.589	1
Boston	29	26	.527	4Q
Philadelphia	22	31	.415	10 1/2
Toronto	23	33	.411	11

Southeast Division

Miami	39	14	.736	—
Atlanta	31	23	.574	8 1/2
Washington	17	37	.315	22 1/2
Orlando	15	41	.268	25 1/2
Charlotte	13	43	.232	27 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	35	21	.625	—
Chicago	32	23	.582	2 1/2
Milwaukee	26	28	.481	8
Detroit	22	36	.379	14
Cleveland	18	37	.327	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE**Southwest Division**

San Antonio	44	13	.772	—
Memphis	36	18	.667	6 1/2
Houston	31	27	.534	13 1/2
Dallas	25	29	.463	17 1/2
New Orleans	19	37	.339	24 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	40	15	.727	—
Denver	35	2		

Weekend Sports

Competitions were all over Saipan last week

In tennis, the second and final week of the 2012 White Coconut Classic were completed at the American Memorial Park courts. Mikayla Lopez, Thea Minor, Carol Lee, Malika Miyawaki, Jireh Warren, Dylan Ackerman, and Vincent Tudela went on to top their respective singles divisions, while Emily Jones and Tommy Choi ruled the mixed-up doubles.

In soccer, Week 2 of the 2013 NMIFA Youth Spring League were played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and the Hopwood Junior High School Field with



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mikayla Lopez gets ready to serve against Negahr Rastguy during their girls U18 singles finale in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic last week at the AMP tennis courts.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
IT&E Fielders pitcher Joe Palacios makes a throw to first base after fielding a bunt during their game against Saipan Stevedore Co. Northern Yankees in the SML last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Busy week for athletes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

teams competing in the boys U18 and U15 matches and girls U15 games. Still in soccer, CNMI Men's National Team defeated the visiting Japan Soccer College in an exhibition game at the Oleai pitch, 2-0, last Friday, one day after NMIFA and government officials led a send-off party for the Commonwealth strikers who will compete in an AFC event in Nepal next month.

In swimming, Northern Mari-

ana Islands Swimming Federation held its third meet of the season with Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy resetting the CNMI age group mark in the 9 to 10's 800m freestyle event and other participants making one personal best times after another.

In beach volleyball, White Chocolate's Wilton Laniyo and Clay McCullough-Stearns and Chen-Knohl's Charnessa Lizama and Knohlynn Gechig

won the boys and girls divisions of the 7th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Junior Doubles Tournament. Laniyo prevailed in another event, as his squad, Vacos, and teammates J.R. Gechig, John Nekaifes, and Mili Saiki survived Dig This, Beaches in the finals of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's Sunset Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament.

In indoor volleyball, Grace



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
LD Prime's Chris Esteves goes for a layup against a Susupe defender during their game in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimmers in the 10-and-under division plunge into the pool during the 50m freestyle race of Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's third meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.

Christian Academy finished the regular season of the MISO girls league in first place with its 15-1 record, three wins ahead of runner-up Saipan International School Lady Green Geckos (12-4).

In the MISO boys basketball at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, Saipan Southern High School remained undefeated in five games, MHS has a 5-2 record, Kagman owns a 4-3

mark, Mt. Carmel holds a 1-5 card, and Eucon International School Blazers has a 1-6 slate.

Still in basketball, Gualo Rai, Adobo, and Maplas La Mani posted wins in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging, while the CT-Kings prevailed against SSFM in Division A. Two Division B games that both featured LD Prime were rained-out last week.

In the Saipan Major League Baseball Association at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the Tan Holdings Brewers routed St. Michael's Medical Response Angels, 15-5, while the Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees beat the IT&E Fielders, 7-5.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, left, introduces coach Luam Khen Koo to the crowd during a send-off dinner for the CNMI Men's National Team last week at Kanoa Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, left, turns over the CNMI flag to CNMI Men's National Team members and coach Luam Khen Koo, second right, during a send-off dinner for the CNMI Men's National Team last week at Kanoa Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Michael Villagomez races in the 100m backstroke event during Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's third meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.



**Dozens hurt
after Daytona
crash debris
hits stands**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**LeBron's
triple-double
lifts Heat
over 76ers**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Blue Ayuyus now better prepared



Members of the CNMI Men's National Team pose for a group photo before their exhibition game against pro squad Meralco Sparks in Manila, Philippines last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI is fielding a better-prepared team in the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers.



"We have a more prepared team in the AFC tournament compared to the squad that competed in the EAFF tournament in Guam last year. We've been training since September, so we're a lot fitter and stronger," said Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel, who is also the starting goalkeeper for the CNMI Men's National Team that will be playing in the

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Adobo keeps perfect record



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

DLX
BASKETBALL
Adobo is still flawless in Division B of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after posting a 73-71 win over JWS last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The victory was fifth in as many matches for the streaking Adobo, while the loss was fourth in four games for JWC, which played catch up right at the opening buzzer, but failed to overhaul the former's lead at the end.

Mike Saturno played consistent offense for Adobo and scored 8 points in the fourth canto, including the team's last two baskets to foil JWC's repeated comeback bids. He finished with a team-high 28 points, while Lester Vertu-

See ADOBO on Page 26

Lester Vertu, seen here dribbling away from the defense of Chinatown's Paul Quizon, scored 10 points in Adobo's 73-71 win over JWS during their Division B game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MHS 1 finishes in 1st place in girls soccer



A Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays player dribbles the ball through traffic during Tuesday's MISO girls soccer matchup against the Kagman High School Ayuyus held at the Oleai Sport Complex field.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School Lady Dol-

phins (MHS-1) won every game it suited up for and finished this year's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls soccer season with five wins and a forfeit as the season virtually concluded last Tuesday at the Oleai

Sports Complex Track & Field.

MHS 1 likely would have finished the term undefeated, if not for a double-forfeit accrued in this past Thursday's final scheduled pairing between the league

See MHS on Page 26

Peterka dedicates award to volunteers, sponsors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

**ATHLETES
of the
YEAR** Laurie Peterka's success in running the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will not be possible without the help of volunteers and sponsors.

"I may be able to provide vision and leadership in NMIVA, but these would be nothing without the dedication of those people who volunteer weekly to help carry out the vision or those com-

munity partners who help to fund our activities," said Peterka, who was named NMASA Sports Administrator of the Year for her outstanding work with the volleyball association in 2012.

"I would dedicate the award to all of our amazing volunteers and sponsors," I see the benefits of recognition and this award is an honor. That my peers and colleagues see the effort that I am putting forth to expand our sport is inspiring. Often times its the little things, ges-

See PETERKA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMIVA president Laurie Peterka, left, receives the 2012 NMASA Sports Administrator of the Year award from Gov. Eloy S. Inos during the NMASA awards banquet held on Feb. 13 at Kanoa Resort.